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Article 1 Seminole War in Florida.

Two companies of United States troops cut off by the Indians, consisting of 112 men.

This intelligence is from a Mobile paper of the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, inserted in the Boston Press. January 29<sup>th</sup>

Major Dade had started with his troops from Tampa Bay to Camp King to join Genl. Clinch, when, on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> of December, at 8 o'clock, they were surrounded by a large body of Indians, supposed to the number of 800 to 1000, and were cut to pieces, only 3 men escaped, badly wounded to recount the lamentable history of the butchery.

Major Dade was shot off his horse on the commencement of the attack. Capts. Gerclint and Grewer soon after fell mortally wounded. Lieuts. Bessinger, Hutchinson, Mudge and Hean and Dr. Gattin surgeon of the detachment, were slain.

Col. Twiggs of the U.S. Army chartered the Steam Boat Merchant



and started with 4 Companies from New Orleans to Tampa Bay. Major Belton is now there with the force under his command.

Tampa Bay is laid down on the maps on the west coast of Florida.

It is said Genl. Scott is ordered to Florida to take the command of the troops, and that parties of the Indians are near St. Augustine, at which place they have destroyed the Light house.

The particulars of the attack on Major Dade, are wanted. We would hope that regular troops did not suffer themselves to be thus easily defeated.

These Indians seem to be very active, and, if numerous, it may require a considerable force to drive them from their extensive and well-thatched woods.

Infantry & Artillery with some light artillery, will be found necessary for <sup>separate</sup> the service. Volunteer corps may assist in the war; but they cannot remain long in the field without exhausting their families at home.



2. The Legislature. By their proceedings it appears that petitions are flowing in for granting incorporation for a variety of purposes, and among others for new banks and increase of capitals. And also for State aid in the construction of the Rail Road from Worcester to the west line of the State.

The growing opposition to Banks, instead of checking them, seems to have increased the chance of obtaining them.

Thus number I think already too great and it is my sincere hope that no more will be granted in the State.

If ever a people were banks mad we certainly are that people. Is it not time for the patriots of our country to awake and turn us from our mercantile mania?

As a grant for the Rail way I should deem more reasonable than incorporation for banks; though I think it is unfortunate that the route selected is so far from the centre of the State that it cannot accommodate but a small part of the people.



3. A Subalterne in America; comprising  
his narrative of the Campaigns of the  
British Army, at Baltimore, Washington  
&c &c. during the late war. 1801. 12 Mo.  
pp. 266. Philadelphia 1833.

The author of this work was a Lieutenant of Light Infantry, during the expeditions against Washington Baltimore and New Orleans in 1814 & 1815, in which it seems he had a full share of hard and arduous service; and he appears to be well qualified for detailing military operations.

Gen. Pop. In the expedition to Washington in Force under the command of Genl Pop, the army consisted of 3 Brigades of nearly 4000 men. The light Brigade forming the advance to Washington was composed of the 85<sup>th</sup> regiment, the light companies of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 44<sup>th</sup>; one company of marines and 100 armed negroes, with mortar about 1200 bayonets and was commanded by Col. Mouton. The 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade again at the head of which was Col. Brock, composed the 4<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> regiments; whilst the 3<sup>d</sup>, led on by Col. Peterson



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Order of march

5

was made up of the 21<sup>st</sup> regiment and a battalion of marines. The park of artillery, again, amounted to no more than 3 pieces, one six and two three pounders; and it was rendered doubly inefficient from the total want of horses. The guns, with their tumbrils and ammunition waggons, were dragged by Seamen, the gunners & drivers followed on foot, and the progress which they made was as tardy as the steep and sandy nature of the roads authorized as a path.

The order of advance is thus described. "The advance guard under Major Brown, led the way. It consisted of 3 companies of light infantry; two of which moved in column along the road, whilst the 3<sup>d</sup> extended in files both in front and on the flanks. After this body, at a certain interval, came the light brigade, which also furnished a company or two to scour the woods. Upon the heels of the light, followed the 2<sup>d</sup> brigade; next came the artillery; and last of all



Can-guerrid

the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade, which furnished the  
"rear guards." (In the whole about 4000.)

The company to which the Subaltern  
was attached consisted of a Captain  
2 Subalterns, 3 Sergeants and 50 rank  
a file; and when it was employed  
in advance, was then distributed.  
Along the high road moved first  
of all 2 files of men and a Sergeant,  
one file about 20 paces ahead of  
the other. Forward with the most  
forward file, 20 men spread them-  
selves, by pairs, or files, each pair  
or file keeping about 10 paces apart  
from the others, on each side of the  
way; by which means the woods  
or fields were swept on both flanks  
to the extent of 200 paces. In the rear  
of the last of the two files, but not  
20 paces behind, moved the remain-  
der of the company. About 20 paces  
behind that small section, the two  
remaining companies (of the advance)  
coming on in compact column, with  
interval, some column ordered to be given,  
when they too, instantly extinguished



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extended through the fields.

The following description is given of the arms and accoutrements of the officers of the light infantry.

"In the first place then, I carried as is usual on such occasions, a perfect equipment of military accoutrements; that is to say, scabbard, sword, belt, pistols and telescope. Strapped across my shoulders was a good cloak, which on many previous occasions had done the duty of a bed, and which I confidently anticipated would be called upon to discharge a similar duty in times that were yet before me. On my right flank, that is to say, slung over my left shoulder, lay a black leather haversack, containing a spare shirt, a pair of stockings, dressing utensils, a foraging cap, three pounds of boiled pork, and two pounds and a half of sea-biscuit. On my left breast again, rested a horn, filled with rum, whilst a wooden keg, for the conveyance of water, hung over my neck, on the very middle



Bivouac.

of my backs: all were equally loaded. The army carried no tents, and at night took up its Bivouacs; the arms piled in open order of columns. In the rear of the muskets, fires were built for cooking and to warm the men who surrounded them. The troops were assembled near their arms, and sat down by companies and sections on the ground beside them. Their great coats were all put on & their accoutrements buckled over them; the knapsacks likewise packed and strapped up, were so arranged as that each might be slung across its owner's shoulders at a moment's warning; or, should no alarm occur, supply him with a comfortable pillow for the night. Arrangements not dissimilar were also gone into by the officers.

During the night, picquets were advanced, and gunnery posts occupied by them, where found convenient, and a chain of sentinels surrounded the camp, forty or fifty yards apart;



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and sometimes double, especially on the great roads, that one might patrol in front, whilst the other remained stationary.

The movements of the army were regulated generally by bugle signals which were well understood by both officers and men; and no other instruments of music were used.

On discovering an enemy by the advance, a signal was given by its bugle and immediately repeated by the corps in the rear, and throughout the army. These signals ~~are~~<sup>were</sup> so well understood in the British army, that not only the discovery of an enemy is almost instantly communicated to the commander of the army, but something of their number, as well as of the nature of their force.

When it became necessary to halt, the commander <sup>in Chief</sup> ordered the signal for that purpose from his advance bugle, which was repeated throughout the army and each corps held the ground it then occupied, and the advance set down small posts in their position. Another signal reversed the man-



Military Remarks

On the discovery of an enemy of considerable force, the commander in chief advanced to examine the ground and direct the necessary movements.

In the order which has been cited Genl Ross advanced to Bleedingburg with perfect safety, and there deposited the whole of our force, drawn up on an advantage on ground; and this achievement was performed principally by his light brigade, without much aid from the others; a striking instance of the inefficiency of an undisciplined body.

At Beattown the Americans had collected a much larger force, and constructed strong lines and batteries, too formidable to attack with such an inferior force as that of the British.

The attack on the American works at New Orleans, evinced less wisdom on the part of the British commander. And while it should teach officers that undisciplined men will fight behind works, it should also caution them against opposing, in the open field, a disciplined force of equal, or indeed,



of an inferior force, unless there is a great disparity in the numbers and obvious advantages of ground.

The work of the Subaltern is well worth the careful attention of officers, particularly of those who command light troops. With the addition of maps of the routes and plans of the order of march and of the encampments, it would have been more useful for military men. The work may be found in the Social Library in this town.

Another work under the title of "Narrative of the Campaigns of the British Army at Washington and New Orleans, in 1800 & 1801" by "The Subaltern" may be found in the same library.

4. A small work entitled *Angela Disobedient* by Maria Monk, is for sale in Boston. This work if true must forever blot the reputation of convents & nuns.

She says she was a nun in the Convent "Hotel Dieu" in Montreal, and on her taking the veil was required



Developments. Awful

to take three oaths, one of which bound  
 her to obey the Priests in all things;  
 and this she soon learnt, was to live  
 in criminal intercourse with them. The  
 Superior, she says, <sup>told</sup> her that infants  
 were sometimes born in the Convent  
 but they were always baptized and  
 immediately strangled. She names  
 several of the "Fathers" of the Convent  
 whom she charges with the grossest  
 crimes, and describes the manner  
 in which one of the nuns, who refused  
 to kill her child, was put to death.  
 viz by first gagging and then smother-  
 ing her with feather beds; and  
 adds that the corpses of children &  
 nuns made away with, are thrown  
 into the vaults, and consumed by  
 vitriol and quick lime.

The charges against the Convent  
 by Miss Morck, are of a high nature,  
 and would hardly gain credence  
 on her bare testimony. But the de-  
 velopments which have recently been  
 made by others, both in Europe and  
 America; and the conclusion,  
 that



that where marriage is prohibited  
and mysterious sanctity claimed  
in an institution, the greatest corrup-  
tion must exist, cannot but excite  
strong fears that the statements of  
Miss Monk may be true. The cor-  
ruptions and depravity of the Jes-  
uits could not be believed by the  
people of Europe, until the most  
indubitable proof was exhibited;  
and ten years ago, who would  
have believed that Masonry, mur-  
dered its members for revealing  
its secrets?

We have flattered ourselves that,  
within the last half century, the  
condition of the greatest part of  
the world had been much im-  
proved, - that the rights of man  
had been, in some degree, fixed  
on a firm basis, and that we were  
fast approaching to a more per-  
fect state, in which injustice might  
be banished, and all be allowed  
to repose "under our vines and fig  
trees, with none to make us afraid."



But we may, we long find, that we are far from this happy state, and that much is still wanting to render the world a happy residence for good men. Future generations may look back, even to our times, and smile at the abuses which now exist, and even they, with further improvements, <sup>may</sup> be considered as very imperfect by the generation which may follow them. This supposes a progression of the condition of man, as yet, far from what it ought to be: And whether any extent <sup>of improvement</sup> can be brought from the world, the evils under which it has so long suffered, is a question of doubtful solution.

In mathematics and many branches of natural philosophy we have arrived to a high elevation; but still there exist of improvement. Sixty years ago we had extensive tracts, by ingenious men, on Chemistry, and the scientific men of that day supposed that this branch of Philos-



why had approached its acme.  
The discoveries and improvements  
since made.  
By Lavoisier and others have given  
us new and numerous works on  
this subject; and the old cumbersome  
treatises are now laid aside as  
almost useless.

This fact ought to check our boasting, humble our pride and teach us that we may be far from having arrived at the summit of the Himalayas. Let not these considerations <sup>however</sup> retard us in the course of improvement. If we cannot reach perfection we may add something to the general stock, and future generations, though they may detect our errors, may thank us for the fine improvements we may have made.

- 
- 5 At a full meeting of Antislavery in the Representatives Hall Jan'y 29-1836 Martin Van Buren was nominated for President of the U.S. and a long list of resolutions were passed in support of the nomination. They are



Antimasonic Nominations

based upon the ground that the candidate is an antimason, since that the Webster will not be supported by other States. The opposing candidate it is supposed, will be Judge White who being an advocate for Slavery, they cannot support. The nomination of Van Buren is said to have been nearly unanimous.

As the Electors of Massachusetts will be chosen by general ticket, this nomination will have no effect, and therefore perhaps might have been omitted. It may produce a division among us.

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6 The Weather, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, still continues extremely cold, and dry and the snow deep. Water in our wells scarcely sufficient for family use, and none has been drawn from my well for cattle since the winter commenced, excepting a day or two. Thus far, the winter has been much like those 40, or more years ago. Shall we say, we have periods of cold winters followed by those that are warm?



7 The Scenery of the Heavens displayed, with view of illustrating the Doctrine of a Plurality of worlds, is announced by Thomas Dick in the preface of his Book on the Improvement of Society by the diffusion of knowledge. The work will form a volume of considerable size and will be illustrated with a great number of engravings, many of which will be original. The work announced Aug 18-1833. I have not heard that it is yet printed. Coming from the pen of Dr Dick, the proposed work must be highly interesting as well as instructing. I wait impatiently to peruse it.

A handsome edition of Dick's works has been published in this country in 4 Vol. 12mo; the scenery of the Heavens not included. The 4 vols embrace his Christianism Philosophy Philosophy of Religion Philosophy of a Future State and Improvement of Society; and all the subjects are treated with great ingenuity, and in a manner adapted to common readers.



o. The Weather.

Monday February 8<sup>th</sup> a snow storm of  
 1836 pine flakes, to add to the mass now  
 on the ground. Continued to middle of the  
 afternoon  
 Total snow fell about 18 inches

Looking out of our windows we see,  
 in many places, only the upper part  
 of the fences, especially where the snow  
 has drifted. In my front door yard  
 the snow is <sup>drifted</sup> nearly to the middle  
 of the upper sashes of the windows,  
 and the air extremely cold. The  
 thermometer in the morning is frequent-  
 ly down to 15 to 18 minus, and during  
 the day the sun has no effect even on  
 the south side of buildings.

The winter of 1799-1800. has been noted  
 as uncommonly cold and the snow deep;  
 but it is believed that, this of 1835-1836,  
 will be found as severe. Indeed the  
 thermometer is much lower than  
 any I have found noted for the former  
 winter. Last winter for a short  
 time the mercury was lower, even  
 down to 30 minus. The present winter  
 however, is more uniformly cold.



## 9 Imperfection of graduated Instruments.

The construction of instruments for astronomical and geodesic operations is perhaps, one of the most difficult of the mechanic arts. In England and in France great attention has been paid to this business, and scientific men have lent their aid in perfecting it, by which a considerable degree of perfection has been attained: Still instruments are far from the desired accuracy, and perhaps human art can never arrive to it.

An angle determined by reading off from one limb, seldom agrees exactly with another read from another point. This imperfection may arise from various sources: as a want of exact graduation, the expansion and contraction of the metals of which they are composed, errors in centering, imperfect adjustment of the sights, & when the instrument is good, to the want of exactness in fixing it to the horizon or vertical plane of any place; all of which are



## Instrument of Surveyors & Navigators

important to insure the requisite accuracy in nice operations.

The best instruments are now so constructed that angles are read off by indices, covering verniers, on various parts of the limb, on the principle of repetition, and a mean of the whole taken for the angle. For a full investigation of this subject, see Chap. 2. of Sir John F. W. Herschel's treatise on astronomy.

Instruments used in land surveying, navigation, and in some parts of engineering may answer valuable purposes, though constructed with less nicety; for here nothing but approximations are expected. These instruments however, ought to be made with great care, so that there may be no other than errors from the inaccuracy of the observations. At sea with a well made sextant, or sextant, the Lat. may be determined with the requisite accuracy; and by their application to the lunar method, the Longitude is ascertained to a degree of precision.



answering to all the purposes, in determining the ship's place; and in this process half a degree is considered but a small error.

In land Surveying a well made Theodolite with a telescope and verniers is the best instrument, especially in open grounds, and for determining the areas of multangular figures; but in the woods, where objects at the angles cannot be seen, unless the bush is cleared away, they cannot be used advantageously. Hence recourse is here to instruments carrying a magnetic needle, which, if good, will answer for the requisite approximations. But instruments of this kind are liable to considerable errors in the hands of unskillful practitioners. Often they are affected by ferruginous minerals in the rocks or earth, and from recent discoveries that have been made, it appears that many substances, other than ferruginous, operate upon the magnetic needle & produce errors. Another and great  
same



Perturbations of the needle

source of error in the needle is the accumulation of electricity upon the glass cover of the instrument. This I have now & have seen mentioned in treatises on surveying; and when first noticed, it was new to me; and in surveying I have always guarded against it.

I was led to the discovery from the hints of an old surveyor, published in the Independent Chronicle at Boston, a number of years ago. The following is an extract from the "hints":

"The Surveyor's compass, as it is called, is the instrument commonly used in surveying lands in this State. Sometimes its needle will not traverse in any degree; at other times, though it retain a degree of motion for some time after it has been agitated, yet when it ceases in a state of rest, it doth not point to the poles:—Some Surveyors have concluded the compass bad, or that they are in the vicinity of some mineral body, which, if the mass be considerable, will always contrain the needle. But the compass may be



good and free from any mineral  
chuck, and notwithstanding be rendered  
useless for a time". This is said by  
the "old surveyor" to take place in  
the winter season; and the following  
is his explanation of the cause.

"If the rays of the sun, in its most south  
ern course, be allowed to reach the flap  
which covers the needle, they strike the  
northern edge of it free from the inter  
vention of any body, and soon give it  
a considerable degree of heat. The adjacent  
margin of the box, in which the needle  
stands, being considerably raised above  
the flap, reflects the rays, and thereby  
increases the degree of heat; while the  
margin on the other side shades or  
prevents the flap, especially when the  
face of the compass inclines from the  
sun, and obstructs the rays."

"In such situations, the needle will ad  
here to the point, & possess the highest  
degree of heat, which will contract  
and entirely contround the power of  
the magnet."

"When this is found to be the case



## True Cause

nothing more is necessary, than rubbing over the glass a little snow or cambric mop, or placing the compass under your arm, with the glass next your shirt, for a few minutes; either of which, will restore to any part of the glass, an equal degree of heat. This difficulty may always be avoided by keeping the compass shaded."

The explanation given by the old Surveyor, is wholly unsatisfactory, and the unequal heat in the different part of the glass, can have no effect on the needle. Had he been acquainted with the laws of electricity, he would have assigned a different cause for this disturbance of his needle. The method he points out will no doubt restore the needle to its magnetic action, but not restoring the equilibrium of heat but that of the electricity accumulated upon the glass, from the friction of the hands in managing the instrument.

The following experiment will explain the cause of the difficulty to which the compass is subject.  
Exp. Let the needle settle in the direction



of the magnetic meridian, then fix it fast, and with the ball of the thumb rub the glass several times in one direction over one end of the needle; then draw the end of the needle under the glass where the friction is applied, and immediately adhere to the glass, and by an easy motion of the compass it may be turned round the circle to its first position, the needle remaining stationary on the glass where it first adheres. While the needle is in any position out of the magnetic meridian, force the air from the mouth upon the glass and it will instantly let go its hold, & after the usual vibration, settle in its meridian.

In this experiment the glass should be clean & dry, as well as the hand used in the friction; and when the glass is close to the needle, the experiment will be more satisfactory.

The errors arising from this source, should be well understood by those who make magnetic surveys in cold dry weather



Geodesic operations in this State.

especially in the winter; and it is a necessary precaution to keep the glass moist if possible, which may be done by frequent blasts from the mouth, or moistening it with a small quantity of snow.

The Geodesic operations now in progress in this State, under the Board of Commissioners for constructing an accurate map of the Commonwealth, it is hoped will introduce a more accurate mode of Land surveying than has hitherto been practiced. The base that has been so carefully and scientifically measured from the Southwold point of Deerfield, thence to Whately & Hatfield, should be carefully measured, and the Lat. & Long. of its termini accurately fixed by the nicest astronomical observations as well as its true angle with the meridian; and a record made thereof in the Books of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Thus a Standard of measure, and an easy process by which to compare compasses & determine the variation of needles, would be provided.



According to a Report of Mr. Borden, made to Gov. Davis, January 1835, the length of the Base was found to be 7 miles, 684, 954 yards, deduced from two measurements, in which the difference was only  $\frac{23}{100}$  of an inch - a coincidence very remarkable.

The apparatus used in this measurement, was composed of 2 rods of metal of different diameters (one 1/2 inch & the other 1/4 inch) placed in a cylinder of tin, and covered with <sup>rough</sup> paste board papers, to obstruct the rays of the sun. An eye was attached to the ends of the rods, and so contrived as to preserve a point in a constant position, notwithstanding the expansion of the rods. Microscopes were placed at the two extremities, and the marks on the sun, brought to exact coincidence at each removal; and where there was an elevation or depression of the ground, the base was deduced by trigonometrical processes. The removal of the apparatus was laborious, but the results very accurate.

In the trigonometrical Survey of



Base of Gen. Roy & Col. Mudge.

Engaged by Gen. Roy, Col. Mudge & others, the base was measured with hollow glass tubes, and steel chains jointed like watch chains, supported on troughs laid horizontally, and collars were made for different degrees of heat. The base measured by the glass tubes was found =  $27404, 08^{\frac{1}{2}}$  = about 5,19 miles. By a subsequent measurement, with the steel chain, the result was found not to differ more than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches. See Hutton's Mathematics Vol. 2. p. 67. New York Edition. If the account of the measurement of our base be accurate, it seems we have equaled, if not, exceeded the English in this measurement. But it is probable their instruments used for the triangulation, were superior to those used by our engineers.

Our Engineer, Mr Borel is an ingenious mechanic as well as a man of science; and he constructs some of his instruments, several which I have examined, and their workmanship ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> not inferior to the English.



10 Seminole War.

By the latest accounts it seems the Indians continue their depredations in Florida, and attack all detachments of our troops, and generally with success. It is said 3500 militia are detached in Georgia, and sent in march for the scene of contest. It is also stated that the Creeks have done some mischief on the frontiers of Georgia and Florida, and that they will probably join the Seminoles in the war. Should this take place, as they are numerous, the contest may be attended with much disaster on the Frontiers. The detached militia will afford but a feeble body in the field, and if they can be made to sustain an action with the Indians, they cannot be kept long in the service, without disturbing their families at home. Would Congress be true to their duty, they would immediately, so modify the Militia of the U.S. as to prepare a select force to be encamped and disciplined in the field annually, and kept ready for service on the shortest notice.



11 In his Life of John Paul Jones  
 M. Sherburne makes the following  
 remarks upon <sup>philosophical and</sup> Naval Commanders.  
 "Every being acts agreeably to the  
 constitution of its nature; and it  
 would be just as absurd to look  
 for a contemplative philosopher  
 in the bustle of business, or a daring  
 naval commander in the ordi-  
 nary pursuits of civil life, as  
 to seek for a gently flowing  
 stream in the crater of a volca-  
 no".

As it relates to a naval commander  
 I think the remark strictly just. The  
 habits of men in the ordinary pursuits  
 of civil life, are so different from those  
 of seamen, that they cannot be brought  
 to relish the scenes and dangers of  
 the Ocean; and as respects the philos-  
 ophy the remark is no doubt equal-  
 ly correct. His retired habits can-  
 not be cheered with the bustle  
 attendant on a life of business, in  
 which there is no time for calm  
 reflection. His life is not an idle



1836

Retirement, end -

31


one; his mind is ever on the stretch, nor in his dreams does he wholly forget the subjects which employ him in his wakeful hours. But his closet is his favorite place; and though he may at times be lonely, he is surrounded by objects which always afford him the pleasant satisfaction and delight.

Such however are not often calculated to make a show in the busy world. They in many instances remain almost unknown; but to them this is not a matter of regret. They have no claim for the tinsel of office, nor the admiration of the unthinking world. A competency to answer the demands of economical support, is all they ask of this world's goods; and thus circumstanced, they repose on calm reflection on the pages of the book of nature; well aware (to adopt the language of an ingenious naturalist) that "the human mind, unenlightened by science, or by considerable reflection, is a soil rich in weeds of superstition and credulity. That



Importance of Science.

it is ever prone to believe in the wonderful, even when this belief, as is often the case, brings with it fears and cares and misery.

That the bondage of the mind is superstitious credulity is great and heavy, which neither religion nor virtue can give it its freedom; and that this it obtains from science. How important then, even in this point of view, is the enlargement of the mind by science? 

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12

Rail Roads.

A Convention of about 150 gentlemen from several States, has recently been held at Windsor Vermont, to consider on the expediency of constructing a rail road through the valley of the Connecticut, from Canada to Hartford; and committees were appointed to procure the necessary acts of incorporation, in the States where they do not already exist, and for other purposes



In Massachusetts, by a foolish law now existing, an expensive survey must be made and plans ~~and~~ <sup>estimated</sup> profiles, <sup>estimated</sup> ~~estimated~~ prepared, before an act of incorporation can be granted, or <sup>even</sup> before a petition can be received by the Legislature. This act, which should be entitled an act to discourage internal improvements, ought to be immediately repealed, & in the House at the last session, a bill passed for that purpose, but met with a veto in the Senate. A company may now survey a proposed route, prepare plans and profiles and estimates, at an expense of thousands of dollars, and then be told by the Legislature, that <sup>they</sup> may withdraw their petition. A common magnificent survey, in which the prominent points, such as hills, plains, rivers, villages and <sup>some</sup> ~~other~~ buildings are delineated, with charts, and all the precautions that are wanted to enable the Legislature to determine the utility, or necessity, of the way asked for.

That



That a Rail way through the valley of the Connecticut, would command much travel there cannot be a doubt; but whether it might facilitate the transportation of heavy merchandise and the produce of the country, is not so clear. Sumner it is believed, would find its way to Hartford in the River, should the railway be constructed, as well as heavy articles from and to the northern part of Massachusetts, above this State. The river becomes ~~very~~ shallow & falls <sup>rapids</sup> are so numerous, that the railway might be the most eligible mode of transportation to some point on the River in the County of Franklin, say near the mouth of Deerfield River, or at Northfield, from both of which points good carted routes are formed to Hartford.

But if the passenger travel shall be sufficient to justify the construction of a rail way the whole distance, nothing would be more gratifying than to see it completed



in successful operation. The only difficulty is to procure the money to defray the expenses of construction, which the people of the valley furnish it. We fear not; and in such a case we must have recourse to our rich Cities. Hartford and New York might be induced to lend their aid; but not a dollar could be obtained in Boston nor in any town far east of Connecticut River.

From the cost of the Railways already constructed in New England, and the estimates of Col. Long, for similar roads in Maine, we may approximate the <sup>probable expense for the</sup> contemplated route in the valley of the Connecticut. On all the routes Col. examined, and where timber or stone are abundant, he estimates the expense of the lowest, at 21,613 Dollars <sup>per mile,</sup> exclusive of the right of way.

Putting then the cost 20,000 Dollars per mile, on the proposed route, and the distance from Hartford to the north line of Vermont at 235 miles, we have 4,700,000 Dollars; to which



which add 28.200 dollars, for the right of way, admitting the road to be 3 rods wide, and we have a total of 4.728.200 dollars; ~~the total expense~~. a sum probably too low. Is this sum to be procured in the Connecticut valley by subscription to the stock? The subscription would be supported or no.

Suppose the towns through which the road ~~should~~<sup>must</sup> pass, were to construct <sup>it</sup> in their several towns, Deerfield, which has an extent of at least eight miles would have to pay the moderate sum of 160.000 Dollars. Does any one believe that the present inhabitants would be compensated by all the facilities it would afford them, or future generations?

But it will probably be held, by some, that the road may be constructed for less than 20.000 dollars per mile. Let us then suppose 16.000 dollars sufficient; Deerfield then would have a tax of



128,000 clutans, a sum far beyond the ability of the town.

From this view of the premises, it follows, that an extensive rail-road cannot be constructed in the interior of our Country, without the aid of Government; and before this can be obtained, a route must be selected which shall be beneficial to a majority of the people. Between large commercial places, as Boston and Worcester, and perhaps, Worcester and Springfield, such companies may be formed, who will invest their property in such a road; but the multiplication of them to any great extent, is idle.

The grant of a railway from Boston to the west line of our State, by the route of Springfield is obviously <sup>locating</sup> wrong. Had the grant been for a road from Worcester, through the middle of the State, to our west line, it would have accommodated a majority of the people; and when such a way was completed, short branches might



be constructed, connecting with it, to accommodate the whole. My projects beyond this are evidently visionary. Note The estimates we have made, suppose a double track.

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- 13 Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup> a snow commenced, which promises a considerable addition to the great mass on the grounds; the air cold and dry.
- 1836 By an account kept by Rufus Saxton Esqr. it appears that the quantity fallen this winter, up to the 14 instant, is 81 inches. At no time since 1779-80, have I noticed a greater quantity on the ground, nor a colder season. We are literally covered up, and the wood at our doors, is obtained only by deep digging. At the same time we have hardly water sufficient in our well for family use, and little business is performed, other than attending the cattle and horses in the barn and yards. In short, the winter is dreary and uncomfortable, and little inferior in this respect, to the winters of Capt. Popin in late voyages.



# 14 Florida, or Seminole War.

By the latest accounts the war continues, with various success on the part of the Indians. Genl. Scott, it is said, is calling on the adjacent States for detachments of militia; 5,000 of which it is supposed will be necessary, in addition to the regulars already employed, to drive the Indians from their stations.

Now we have a specimen of the military strength of our country. As war commences troops are wanted for immediate service, but where are they to be found? The farmer, mechanic, merchant are called from their employments, to fight an active enemy, without being instructed in one requisite for military service; while their families at home, in many instances, are reduced to want, and of course the troops can continue but a short time in the field. New detachments must then be made to supply their places, <sup>compensate</sup> of the same sort of troops



Defensive Strength of the Country

troops. If the war continues for some time, regulars are ordered to be raised and instituted; this task is slow, & before they are ready for the field the enemy ravage the frontiers and commit great destruction on lives and property. To remedy this difficulty, let Congress raise from the States a militia on a proper footing. Let there be a select corps in each State, disciplined a certain time in the field annually, and paid and subsisted while on that duty, and bound to serve six or eight months when called into actual service. A body of troops under this system would always be ready, and before this time the Seminoles would have been brought to sue for peace, and the lives and property of the frontier inhabitants saved. But, say some of our wise men, this plan sounds of a standing army! Be it so, if they please: But they must know, that without some such force, we are in imminent danger.



No man of discernment who has perused the letters written by Gen. Washington, during the revolutionary war, can for a moment entertain the least confidence in an undisciplined militia; and all other experienced officers entertain opinions perfectly coincident with those of Washington. We might quote this article by citations, <sup>not only from Washington but</sup> from Gen. Green, Gen. Mercer, Baron Steuben, Gen. Hamilton ~~and~~ Gen. Henry Lee and others, all testifying to the utter incapacity of undisciplined militia for the field.

Gen. Lee, who distinguished himself while Col. of a Legion, in the army of the revolution, gives the following sentiment in relation to the militia

"Whenever the commitment of our militia in battle with regulars occurs, the heart of the writer is rent with painful emotions; knowing as he does the waste of life resulting from the stupid, cruel policy. Can there be any system devised by the wit of man, more the compound of inhumanity



ity, of murder and waste of resources? Ought any government to be respected, which, when peace permits substitution of a better system, neglects to avail itself of the opportunity. Were a father to put his son, with his small sword drawn for the first time, against an experienced swordsman, would not his neighbors exclaim! "murderer! Vile murderer! Just so acts the Government; and yet our parents are all satisfied; although, whenever war takes place, their sons are to be led to the altar of blood. Dreadful apathy! Shocking coldness to our progeny! - Convinced as I am, that a government is the murderer of its citizens, which sends them to the field uninformed and unarmed, where they are to meet men of the same age, mechanized by education and discipline for battle, I cannot withhold my denunciation of its wickedness and folly; much as I deplore, those instances of our citizens vying with our best soldiers in the first duty of man to his country!"



15 Message of Gov. Eaton to the  
Legislative Council of Florida.  
January 11-1836.

The Indian War in Florida, though attended with much suffering on the part of the inhabitants, will, it is hoped, furnish a useful lesson to our Government, respecting our defenseless state.

Gov. Eaton seems to be sensible of the imperfection of the present militia system. In his message he says. "Our militia laws are wholly inadequate to the attaining any useful and satisfactory results; and if some effectual means be not resorted to, of drawing to the field, an active & sufficient force, fears are entertained that the Legislative Council of Florida may afford room for the malicious & base aspersion and censure, and call in question its patriotism."

"While you are deliberating in cora debetis, desolation and war gather along your frontiers, and women and children are driven into insecure temporary forts to  
save



save themselves from butchery. Encouraged by our superiority, the Indians will soon become bold and confident; and from their contiguity may presently march upon the Council Chamber which you are occupying."

The following contains pertinent remarks and wise hints.

"Promptitude in Indian Warfare, (and he might have said in all others) is ever important; and without activity and decision on your part, this cannot be effected. — Your laws may do for a state of peace; but they are not suited to the purposes of war. Are you fearful of confiding to the Executive, a right to compel the reluctant and unwilling to discharge a command by to this country; — an authority which some are pleased to consider improper and dangerous? Place then the power in any whom you choose. Set it, if you please, aside with a committee of your own body. The Governor, unambitious of placing any



misplaced and hazardous power, will cheerfully admit (submit) the trust in to the hands of any safe depository, which may be designated. His only object is to awaken a feeling of patriotism, and to inspire, if he can, zeal for a bold and fearless discharge of those duties, which may give security to the frontiers. But what signifies those school boy notions about dangers to liberty, from the granting in this Territory, necessary authority for maintenance of peace and good order? Are our institutions of that fragile form that every famished blast can move them?"

The remarks of the Gov that the laws may do for a state of peace, but not for the purposes of war, is a happy one; and this will hold true in every State in the Union. So deeply are we engaged in the peaceful arts of agriculture, commerce and internal improvement, that we forget those of war, and military preparation, and rest in fancied security, though an enemy may be at our doors. True



it is, alas! an active tribe of Indians may commit depredations on our frontiers, massacre the inhabitants and destroy property to an immense amount, before a competent force can be brought against them; and <sup>even</sup> this from the blind policy of our government, in not establishing the militia on a proper basis. Our present difficulty with France, and the near approach of war with that powerful kingdom, it is hoped will rouse our government to <sup>efficient</sup> measures of defence. But should it remain in ~~its~~ its present apathy, in this respect, the heedlessness will evince a stupidity which every patriot must regret, as a prelude to the distresses of a destructive war, without a competent force to sustain it.

Our men still flatter ourselves that war may be avoided; that the wide continent will forever secure us from European enmity; but the time will come when we shall learn that our only safety is in our military attitude; and those who would



adopt a quaker system, will find that  
the world are not quakers, since that  
a military force will still remain  
the ultima ratio regum, in the nations  
of Europe. Let us then learn Wisdom, in the  
schools of Peace.

1836 16 Sunday February 21. This day the  
weather has become more mild; the  
eaves of our buildings giving copious  
streams of water from the melting  
snow, which load the roofs, and  
we are comfortable in our sitting room,  
with a common fire. We reflect  
then ourselves that the severity of  
winter is over, and that the balmy  
breeze from the south will soon give  
us rest and activity and  
comfort. Should warm rains sud-  
denly occur, numerous floods must fol-  
low, sweeping our dams & bridges  
in destructive confusion, down our  
rivers, shewing us how feeble are  
the arts of man when opposed  
to the operations of nature.



17. A warm altercation is said to have taken place in the House of Representatives at Washington. Mr. Harlow a member from Kentucky, seemingly re-marked upon the bill to appropriate large sums for the several Navy Yards, "that the public money was squandered upon the sea-service".

Mr. Cushing, of Massachusetts, made a very spirited reply, to which Mr. Harlow again rejoined, in a very abusive manner, comparing Mr. Cushing to the great Tydidus, Tydus' son, and quoted the line —  
 "Dine was the charge, and dreadful from  
 afar,  
 When great Tydidus thundered in the  
 war."

Mr. Cushing said in reply, "that he regretted to see a gentleman, possessing neither the courage of Achilles for the fight, nor the wisdom of Odysseus for the council, but with <sup>the</sup> grey hairs of Nestor upon his head, playing, in this house, the part of the sneaking Thersites." The



The retort elicited a burst of applause from the gallery. Thus ~~these~~ classical gentlemen divert themselves, and amuse the audience with their school-boy topics; "And grace and virtue, sense and reason split, with all the rank elasticity of wit."

A plain English scholar, unacquainted with the fabulous stories of Homer and Virgil, would have said, "that he regretted to see a gentleman, possessing ~~the~~ neither the courage of a hero for the fight, nor the sagacity of a wise man for the council, but with the grey hairs of a philosopher upon his head, playing, in this house, the part of a meddling critic."

But there being no allusion, in such a retort, to the ancient authors of Greece or Rome, it would inevitably pass in silence, and be unavailing by classical gentlemen, as stale & insipid. Since thus it is, that our orators and poets excite the store of the multitude by their allusions to the jargon of ancient mythology, so much enforced under the pretence of their masters, and



occupy their minds in ripe age, to  
 the exclusion of the sublime truths  
 of science. But to this puerility  
 we must submit, until a thorough  
 revolution takes place in the mode  
 of instruction in our colleges; once <sup>the</sup> living  
 history of the classic languages are taught.  
~~languages of antiquity must be~~  
~~for those languages - and improvement~~  
~~in the study of the classics~~  
~~life to much wanted.~~

True it is, as a sensible writer remarks,  
 "The habits of abstract thought and  
 close reasoning, which a natural phi-  
 losopher must necessarily acquire,  
 are utterly incompatible with that  
 quickness of association and versatili-  
 ty of thought, which are the prin-  
 cipal sources of extemporaneous  
 declamation. These antiscientific habi-  
 ts, however, are less hostile to his  
 colloquial efforts, than the nature  
 of the subjects with which the mind  
 of the natural philosopher is  
 principally conversant. While the  
 study of History, Poetry and Belles  
 Letters, furnish numerous eme-



interesting topics of general conversation, the man of science is prevented from introducing subjects which would be generally intelligible, and is thus denied the opportunity of displaying his knowledge and his talents, which is exacted to those who cultivate literature and the fine arts.

But admitting that the colloquial talents of men of science are less than those who cultivate literature and the fine arts, does it follow that their speeches would be less useful and less convincing? I mean such men might have more brief remarks and less parade of newspaper columns, but those better adapted to the reason of discerning men. . . . Ancient mythology since the Greek and Roman poets ~~may~~ <sup>are</sup> be suffered to rest on the mouldy shelves of our obsolete libraries, in company with the worm eaten volumes of Thomas Aquinas and the old books of chemistry, without any real loss to the useful stock of knowledge.



Poetical Works

18 The Foreign Quarterly Review for Oct. 1835, has the following article in relation to the publication of literary works. "Public opinion in Germany holds out little more encouragement to young aspirants for poetical distinction than it does in England; nay, there is such a stigma for every thing like verse, that many of the principal book sellers will not publish any poetry. Every Leipzig, however, notwithstanding, brings at least thirty collections of poems, the authors of which, so far from receiving payment for them, have frequently themselves to dispay the expenses of printing".

Are the Germans then losing a taste for belle lettres, and turning their attention to works of science and practical utility? This appears to be the fact, and the publication of such works must meet patronage. England too is following the same course; and Dramatic works in many parts of Europe are diminishing.



Does this indicate an advance of human intellect, or a deviation of a considerable taste? I think the former. A Le. Place or a Bowditch can ~~have~~ <sup>find</sup> little room for the imaginations of the poet. In America the taste seems to be different; we are completely inundated with works adapted to the journey, and if we read we do not learn from them any fixed principles leading to important results. We have newspapers in abundance, which keep us alive to party politics; but by a great portion of the people, those are most esteemed which contain the most trifling subjects, interrupted with <sup>the</sup> marvellous.

We hope the vitiated taste of our people, will one day be corrected by a thirst for solid learning. Books, especially American editions, may be obtained at a reasonable price. Thirty dollars will now purchase 60 Vol. of Harper's family Library, than which there is not to be found a more valuable selection. Will our young men still pay 30 dollars for a watch, in preference to the set of Books? —



19 The Journal des Debats, a French Paper, remarking upon the dispute with America, says.

"The Americans are destined to become a nation of the first order, in fact they are so at present, according to general acknowledgment. However, in point of military prowess they are, as yet, but novices, notwithstanding their excessive pretensions on this point, and our centuries of glory cannot be effaced by the pertinent sorties of this infant Hercules."

Thus it appears that our defenceless state is understood in France. Our boast of a million of undisciplined men, they are aware, is idle and preposterous. When our government shall lead this number to a proper size, and give them real military instruction in camps, the nations of Europe <sup>will no longer</sup> laugh at our pretensions and trifle with our rights. Our "school-boy nations", must be corrected, before we can claim to be an independent nation. Our laws are fitted only for a state of Peace; but war will come,



when our farmers, mechanics and merchants  
will learn from sad experience, the stu-  
pidity of our Government, in not  
preparing an efficient force for our  
protection, while peace affords the  
means and opportunity.

20

Capt. Ross Narrative.

The Foreign Quarterly Review, for Oct.  
1835, mentions as an extraordinary cir-  
cumstance, that the Grand Duke of Hes-  
se has granted to Capt. Ross an ex-  
clusive privilege, for twelve years, for  
the sale in his dominions of the Nar-  
rative of his last Voyage in the English  
language, and also for the German  
translation of it made with his con-  
currence.

From this we conclude the Grand  
Duke holds Ross Narrative in higher  
estimation <sup>than</sup> the London Quarterly Review  
of July 1835. which criticised it with  
great severity. See Sketch Book  
Vol 2, page 21 for a Review of the Re-  
view



21. "The constitutions of nations like those of human bodies, insensibly become corrupted in time; when nature interposes, and expending her native strength discharges the accumulated mischief, and purifying, restores them to their former vigour and function". Westminster Review Oct. 1835.

If this be true, how shall we account for the fact? Are men more honest and virtuous when they form constitutions, than when they have lived sometime under them? This may be the case. Constitution are first formed from necessity for the protection of the whole, and honest and honorable men undertake the task from the best motives; these at length give place to a new race, who are not always willing to be bound by their predecessors; and under pressure of a progressive of knowledge, they are disposed to try their skill at improvement. They are, they say, wiser than their fathers, and



think they have discovered errors in  
their system. Alterations are then  
made, to adapt them to a more im-  
proved state of society. But it will  
often be found that these innovations  
are made from selfish motives, to  
give ~~them~~ an opportunity to elevate  
themselves to places of honor and prof-  
it. In general I think it a good rule  
to adhere to systems of government  
long tried, unless there are obvious  
errors, which is sometimes the case.  
Since then, in our own constitution,  
the universally representative shows  
clearly that it should be retained.  
At the time it was adopted it might  
have been proper, or perhaps no  
better plan could then be introduced.  
But alterations should be made  
with great caution and reflection;  
and in general it will be found  
that those things out of ~~favor~~ they are  
not made for the better. I am not  
however rigidly attached to old sys-  
tems because they are old; but I have  
seen much to satisfy me that we have



among us, many who are more  
guided by self than by principles;  
and who by specious evils can  
deceive the people and lead them  
into error.

Great efforts, it is true, are now  
making to improve the human  
mind, and it is hoped they will  
prove successful. But though we  
may have shaken off some of the  
absurdities of former times, it is  
not certain that we are a jot  
more honest than our progenitors.  
A late French writer has, as he  
thinks, proved by decisive evidence  
that public instruction not only  
has no effect whatever in dimin-  
ishing the turkiness of crime, but  
that it greatly increases it. The  
position is humiliating and our  
hope unfounded. See M. Guerry's  
celebrated work on <sup>the</sup> Moral Sta-  
tistics of France.

Much might be said on this sub-  
ject pro and con, but we will not  
here capture our remarks in



22 Accounts up to the 11th of February,  
 1836 State, that Genl. Scott had arrived  
 at St. Augustine with 100 regular troops  
 and that the Indians were burning  
 the plantations which had been de-  
 scribed in the southwest of that place.

Be patient Americans! Our Govern-  
 ment will yet be able to subdue this  
tribe of Indians. only give them time  
 to raise troops, and we shall be  
 able to show the world how formi-  
 -dable we are as a military nation.

Rejoice France in thy prudence in  
 not making war with us. Had you  
 landed on our coast and marched  
 for Washington, there wouldst not have  
 found a Bledensburgh, nor laid in  
 ashes our Capitol. We should  
 have put to flight thy veteran  
 vipers, with the armed men  
 the summer, mechanics and men  
 of war of our country, armed cap-  
ae pie for the fight. What a con-  
 stance before an undisciplined body of  
 "freemen, fighting in defence of their  
 wives, children and property!"



Algiers

- 23 The old policy of the nations of Europe in purchasing peace of these Savages who held the world as enemies, was of a most singular character, and disgraceful to civilization. The plea for this practice has been, that it was less expensive to purchase peace than to fight them. This may have been true, and the same might hold good in cases of disputes with other nations, yet the practice has not been adopted between civilized people.

The capture and retention of Algiers by the French, is an event most pleasing to the friends of liberty, and it is hoped that it will result in the civilization of that country, so famous in ancient History under the name of Nimrodia.

The claims of the Algerines to capture Christian Christians, was submitted to by the nations of Europe, until Lord Exmouth's attack on their city in August 1816, by the English and Dutch fleets, when the Dey was



compelled to abolish it: yet it seems this did not extend to all the Christian nations. The French, at length, sent a force and captured the city; and in stead of a treaty with a government in which so little dependence could be placed, they ruled it by a military force.

(1835) By an account found in the late papers it appears, that the arabs had collected an army for the recapture of the country. A force of four Brigades of French troops, under the Duke of Orleans, advanced against them on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November last, and met them on the great plain of the Sig, where a battle was fought, which terminated in the defeat of the arabs. The French formed into a hollow square with their artillery and baggage in the centre, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> of December, attacked the enemy at Mascara, in mount Atlas, and obtained a victory. The arabian force is said to have consisted of about 4000, infantry and cavalry. We rejoice at this French success in so laudable a cause.



Deelham Grant of 8000 acres, at Deerfield.

24 The following facts in relation to the Deelham Grant at Deerfield, then called Petuntuc, or Pocumtuc by the natives of the place, are taken from Erasmus Worthington's History of Deelham.

"When the General Court ordered 2000 acres of land, within the town of Deelham, to be appropriated for an Indian village at Nestick; it granted at the same time to the proprietors of that town, as a compensation therefor, 8000 acres of any unlocated lands within the jurisdiction, whenever they might chose to have the lands.

In 1663 messengers were sent by Explorer the town to explore the chessnut country, probably some part of the country of Worcester near Savacaster. Report was made by the explorers, that the land was tolerably good, but hard to bring under cultivation, and there was not there a sufficiency of meadow.

Soon after the report, John Fairbanks informed the selectmen there



was some very good land about 12 miles from Haddley where the 8000 acres might be located, and they sent out John Fairbanks and Daniel Fisher to examine the land. They were instructed to go first to Sudbury and inquire of ensign Noys, and if necessary to go to Lancaster to inquire of Good Willard, respecting the land.

These men it seems after wandering many days in the hill country, covered with great trees of oak and chestnut, and describing the only settlements of white men seen on the journey viz Sudbury, Lancaster and Haddley, returned to Dedham and made the following Reports.

Report of  
of -

"We at length arrived at the place we sought for. We called it Petuntuck because there dwell the Petuntuck Indians. Having ascended a little hill, surrounded by swampland by rich meadow land; from that spot we beheld broad meadows, stretching far north west and south of us. In these meadows



we could trace the course of a fine River, which comes out from the mountains on the northwest, and running northerly, through many miles of meadow, seemed to us to run in among the hills again, at the northeast. The tall trees of button wood and elm, exposed to us its course. That meadow is not soft and covered with coarse watergrass like that around us here, but is hard land. It is the best land that we have seen in the colony; we dug holes in the meadow, with intent to find the depth of the soil, but could not find the bottom. At the foot of the little hill we stood on, is a flat of ground sufficiently large to build a village upon, and sufficiently high to be out of the reach of the spring floods. Providence led us to that place! It is indeed far away from our plantations, and the Cenacarios and Amelchites dwell in that valley, and if they have any attachment to any spot on earth, must delight to dwell there.



But that land must be ours. Our people have resolute and firm hearts, and strong hands to overcome all difficulties. Let us go and possess the land, and in a few years you will have more boast of it in this colony, as a land good for flocks and herds, than could ever be justly said of the land of Goshen, or any part of the land of Canaan."

Six persons were then appointed to repair to Petuntuck and locate the 8000 acres. Capt. John Pynchon of Springfield, was appointed & employed by the town, to purchase those lands of the Indians. He soon after performed that duty, and procured four deeds from the Indians, which were afterwards deposited in deacon Aclis box at Decatur. The town gave £94. 10 for these deeds, which sum was procured by an assessment on the common rights of the Decatur propriety."

Remarks. The "Little Hill", mentioned in the report, is supposed to ~~be~~ ~~be~~ be



Original State

what is now called Prime Hill, in the North meadow, and the "plot of ground for a village" the same south and east of it, which was supposed to be sufficiently elevated upon the spring floods, for that purpose. But it was soon found to be too low, and the village was laid out where it is now seen.

The report does not state that the meadow was cleared at the time; but says, they <sup>explorers</sup> could ~~not~~ traverse the River "by the tall trees" which would have been impracticable had it been covered with woods. But that it <sup>was</sup> cleared, or partially so, is probable from the circumstance that great quantities of Indian Corn was raised in it, by the natives, at the time of the Pequod war in Connecticut, in 1637.

Probably the meadow was much covered by ponds and swamps in early times; some parts since my recollection which are now drained were so ~~in~~ <sup>at</sup> my Father's time.



me, that old Indians informed his  
Indian father that they formerly chased the  
Beaver in their canoes through ~~some~~  
<sup>of the meadows</sup> parts, from pond to pond; and one  
part, which is now dry land, is  
still called Beaver dam. The names  
given to different parts of the meadows  
are generally, if not all, English, the  
Indian names being lost. (see old Dece)

Changes, no doubt, have been made  
Champrovis the River, since the first settlement  
of the River of the town by the English; in some  
instances we have ourselves witnessed  
there, and perhaps we shall be  
everget in ascertaining, that the present  
channel, <sup>in no place</sup> occupies precisely the same  
it did, at the time the Dedham  
explorers viewed it. The soil is  
evidently all alluvion and free  
from stones, to the depth of 10 or more  
feet, in many places interspersed with  
vegetable substances. The fine sand  
here, of the best part of the mead-  
ow, at this time, is 100 fathoms, and in  
some instances higher; and it is gene-  
rally raised at 8 or 10 per cent, the common



Fifty or sixty years ago, freshets were common, often spreading over the greater part of the north meadow; sometimes bringing down from the mountains immense masses of ice, which swept every thing before it; and when they occurred in the summer season the damage was often great. It is now deemed it difficult to fence out the lands, especially where they are low, and a common fence encloses the whole, following the higher grounds.

The water of the River is very clear and pure, when at its ordinary height; and there being few stagnant ponds, the valley is, perhaps, as healthy as any place within the United States.

But notwithstanding the fertility of our meadows, it is doubtful whether the profits of our farmers are equal to those of our hill farmers, whose pasturing is abundant and stacks of cattle are raised for the market. The want of pasturage is severely felt by the farmers of our valley.



Pine Hill, which has been mentioned in the preceding remarks, is rather a singular elevation; it approaches to the form of a parallelogram containing <sup>say</sup> from 30 to 40 acres, and much of it is still covered with woods. It rises abruptly on all sides & the easterly part forms a beautiful plain; west of this plain it rises to a considerable elevation then falls off suddenly; the plain & elevation resembling the rampart & parapet of a large fortification. A good border on the westerly side, formerly of a considerable surface, but now reduced by a drain to the river. On the northernmost point of the hill, I have noticed excavations which were called Indian cellars, and probably this was the site of one of their forts, which overlooked the westerly part of the meadow. It is supposed that our valley was once covered by an expansion of the ice of our river, and that at the Greenstone clike below Chippewick, was a place which has been removed by the elevation of the waters. This supposition, no doubt is well founded.



25 Message of the President of the U.S.  
to the two Houses of Congress, February  
22, 1834

This message announces that the difficulties between us and France, have been settled by the generous and honorable interference of the the British Government. The President then takes the occasion to raise Congress to the dangers of our country from its defenseless state, which we are highly gratified to see, in the following language

"I may be permitted, I think, at this time, without a suspicion of the most remote desire to throw off censure from the Executive, or to point to any other department, or branch of the Government, to refer to the want of effective preparation in which our country was found at the late crises. From the nature of our institutions, the movements of the government in preparation for hostilities, must ever be slow for the exigencies of unexpected war. I submit it then to you, whether the first duty we owe to the people who have confided to us



us this power, is not to place our country in such an attitude as always to be so amply supplied with the means of self-defence as to afford no inducement to other nations to presume upon our forbearance, or to expect important advantages from a sudden assault, either upon our commerce, our sea coast, or our interior frontier. In case of the commencement of hostilities, giving the necessity of Congress, the time necessarily elapsing before that body could be called together, even under the most favorable circumstances, would be pregnant with danger, until issue was decided without signal disaster or national dishonor the hazard of both, unwisdom, inevitable, could not fail to excite a feeling of deep reproach. I earnestly recommend to you, therefore, to make such provision that in no future times shall we be found without ample means to repel aggression even although it come upon us without notice or warning. We are now fortunately so situated that the opportunity for this purpose will not be lost, and



and if it were, it would be aspired by those from whom all its means are derived, and for whose benefit only it should be used with a liberal economy and an enlightened fore-  
cast."

In behalf of these suggestions I cannot forbear repeating the wise precepts of one whose councils cannot be forgotten:

"The United States ought not to indulge a persuasion that, contrary to the order of human events, they will forever keep at a distance those painful conflicts to which the history of every other nation is bound. There is a rank due to the United States among nations, which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult we must be able to repel it. If we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war!"

Every suggestion in the above extract is wise and timely, and ought



instantly to rouse Congress from their  
astonishing supineness. Simple provision  
no doubt will be made for fortifications  
on the sea-board; but it is feared Congress  
will do nothing important, Congress providing  
more to defend them. They may per-  
haps look at the militia system for  
a moment, and submit the subject to  
a committee; but nothing efficient, I  
predict, will be done either at the  
present session, nor any future one,  
until we are actually reached on shore,  
and our fire sides, & our wives, our  
children and our property, will be at  
the mercy of a ruthless enemy. The old  
song of Lexington, Concord, Bunker's Hill  
and Bannington will still be <sup>heard</sup> in  
our ears; and the hymns of unchristian  
-like freemen, will <sup>again</sup> lead us into fatal  
security. Mercantile affairs, banks and  
banking and internal improvements,  
will continue their absorbing influence  
over the minds of the avaricious; the  
militia will still play with its  
colours, feathers and banners, and real  
military science disappear, and the



nations of Europe continue to laugh at our puerile notions of defence.

War is a great evil to any country, and to avert it, we should ~~we should~~ <sup>we should</sup> prepare for it in time of peace. We must not only fortify our great sea ports, but place our militia on a proper formation. We would give <sup>the</sup> the notion that all should be soldiers. Select a sufficient number and give them fixed discipline in time of peace, so far as to instruct them in the duties of the camp, holding them ready for service on the shortest notice. Unless this scheme be adopted, we shall be compelled to resort to a standing army.

We rejoice that the dispute with France has terminated without a war; but had this scourge come to our shores, and a few cases like that at Blackmore occurred, it would have taught us how totally unprepared we are for defence, and perhaps have aroused Congress from its lethargy in this respect.

Conquest of our Country by any



Operations of an Invading Army 75

action on the other side of the Atlantic, and we have none on this side to fear, we believe is impossible. An invading army of experienced troops, under an able officer, might however do us immense damage. Such an army might march in any direction, either coastwise or into the interior, with but faint resistance from our militia. The only difficulty, if the invading army be numerous, would be to procure subsistence. This might induce a cautious commander to prefer the former route, by which he could procure supplies, when found insufficient, from a coasting squadron. But only safe course, in either case, would be to retire from the invaders and recapture the country in their rear, which they had left. Should they leave garrisons in temporary fortifications in the rear, which of course would be weak, we might capture them or starve them out. Should the invaders consist of 100,000 men, <sup>manfully</sup> they would soon be reduced to small numbers, by leaving garrisons sufficiently numerous to hold the country.



A system of operation very different from this would be ~~adopted~~; a large portion of the army would be kept compact, while the cavalry and light troops would cautiously spread in various directions in front and flank, to procure forage and other supplies; and upon these we might sometimes make successful attacks; but in all situations the main body would be secure.

Since it is evident, though the invaders might march through our country, they would not be able to hold it, with any force that could be brought from any one nation in Europe.

But we ought to be able to present a force competent to stop them ~~the~~ ~~invaders~~, and though we have men in abundance, we have very few soldiers. Numbers are of little consequence without discipline; in such a case, the greater the numbers the greater the confusion that would attend them. The strength of a country consists in the men that can be raised, well ~~armed~~ ~~and~~ ~~clothed~~ ~~the~~ ~~other~~ ~~men~~ ~~not~~ ~~soldiers~~.



- 26 Since our last notice, under this article,  
Feb 21<sup>st</sup> the weather has been variable;  
1836 some slight falls of rain and considerable  
snow have occurred, but in general the  
cold has continued severe, and the snow  
about its former depth. our wells still  
continue very low, and we are in great  
want of water for our cattle. This day, March  
1<sup>st</sup>, we have some rain, but it makes little  
impression upon the snow. We have  
a good quantity of wood in our yard,  
but it is buried so deep with snow, as  
to render laborious to get it out.

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27 The Legislature

- 1836 This body has been sitting seven weeks  
or more, and business is crowding upon  
them. Many things suggest one or the  
other, and it seems as if the session was  
the first after the adoption of the Con-  
stitution. Shall we ever become settled  
down to a regular and practicable sys-  
tem? The mode of transacting business  
is tardy, from the numerous representation  
in the house. All petitions and motions  
sustained, are submitted to committees  
who



Transaction of Business Truly

require sometime to examine them, and make their reports; and when made, for or against them, it often happens that the majority of the members know nothing of their merits. Generally the house has little to do, <sup>at first</sup> except to meet and adjourn, and wait for the reports of the committees, and thus, six or seven weeks are spent in the first part of a session, each member charging his two dollars per day. unless wages to be some; but the boondocking houses are well compensated in the meantime.

Recently a petition has been presented by, or through, the influence of our Neighbors of Greenfield, to set off a part of our town of about three fourths by nearly, three miles, including Cheasefield, so called, and our lands situated by a Gutter, for the ministry in Deerfield. Annoyed almost indeed! The moving cause of this step is plain; Greenfield wants money and Greenfield must have it, as Bonaparte told the U.S. in a similar case.



28 Northern Wild's Almanacs for 1836 gives the following statement of the variation of the needle, at Cheshirefield N.H.

Mean for 1812 =  $6^{\circ} 26'$  West; from that time to 1820 it was decreasing, and at that date it was  $6^{\circ}$  West. From 1820 the variation increased as follows.

1828 =  $6^{\circ} 52'$ : 1829 =  $7^{\circ}$ : 1830 =  $7^{\circ} 06'$ : 1831 =  $7^{\circ} 10'$   
 1832 =  $7^{\circ} 15'$ : 1833 =  $7^{\circ} 30'$ : 1834 =  $7^{\circ} 35'$ .

We omit the years from 1821 to 1827, in which the variation was increasing, though not in an equal ratio. The change according to this Statement, was between 1820 and 1821. I had fixed it about 1811 or 1812.

The variation at Concord N.H. is said to be about  $1^{\circ}$  greater than at Cheshirefield, and about the same at Claremont as at Concord, and that as we go south and westerly the variation decreases. The line of no variation is supposed to be between "here" and the Pacific Ocean. We can inform Mr. Wild that he will find this line to the eastward of Niagara Falls, if he will examine written on the subject. These facts given by Mr. Wild, I think, are not entirely correct; but they go to show,



that the monthly variation is increasing; which by my observations, is at the rate of 4<sup>th</sup> minutes in a year. See Sketch book Vol. 1. page 4. Further observations may be necessary to determine the rate of increase, and it may not be found to be regular. To what the change is owing, remains a question. See Cavalli's Treatise on Magnetism, page 324, & seq.

The curious discoveries that have recently been made, in Electro Magnetism, induce us to believe, that our present theories of Magnetism are very imperfect. See Edin. Encyc. Art. Thermo-Magnetism.

29

### Florida War.

From a newspaper July 10<sup>th</sup> we have the following occurrence. - A Det. Band of the volunteers attached to Gen. Clinch's command had mutinied, and threatened to shoot Gen. Persim; he was immediately shot dead by the latter. Gen. Persim had been twice by a Comet mounted. The consequence was that all the volunteers left



left Gen. Clinch with his free companies of regulars, and he had at that time received no reinforcement. N.Y. Gov. & Cong.

Then we have another specimen of militia service in the field. Instances of insubordination constantly occur among them; nor is it easy to bring undisciplined men to a due submission to the rules and articles indispensably necessary in an army.

Gen. Poirish was probably rash in the step he took, and is answerable to the articles of war. But this rashness is not a justification of the conduct of the volunteers in deserting the service. Such occurrences, however, will often happen in a militia corps, and ought to teach us the danger of trusting to them for our defense. It is proper our government will at length see the force of the adage "in peace prepare for war", and no longer trust our defense to military volunteers, who go when they please, fight when they think proper, and return home at their pleasure, leaving the command to contend with the enemy, without a force.



Among the numerous voyages and travels which have been given to the public none appear to me to be more important than the Travels and Researches of Alexander von Humboldt and his associate, M. Aimé Bonpland; the former a Prussian and the latter a Frenchman. These Gentlemen explored the equinoctial regions of our Continent, in the years 1799-1800-1801-1802 1803 & 1804, and much of their researches have been laid before the public, and when complete, it is said, they will make 12 Vol. 4to, 3in folio, two collections of geographical designs, and one of picturesque views. Some of the works have been translated into English, that by Mrs. Williams under the title of Voyage aux Régions Équinoxiales du Nouveau Continent, pendant les années 1799 à 1804, an octavo edition is found in some of our Bookshops though rather rarely.

The astronomical treatises have been published in 2 quarto Vols. under the



title of Recueil et Observations Astro-  
nomiques et de Mesures exécutées dans  
le Nouveau Continent: and contain  
the original observations made between  
the 12<sup>th</sup> degree of south lat. and 41<sup>st</sup> of N.  
Lat., the transits of the sun and stars over  
the meridian - occultations of satellites,  
eclipses, &c: a treatise on astronomical refra-  
ctions under the torrid zone, considered as  
the effect of the decrement of caloric in  
the strata of the atmosphere; - the baro-  
metric measurement of the Andes of Mexi-  
co, Venezuela, Quito and new Grenada;  
together with a table of nearly 700 geo-  
graphical positions. The greatest pains  
have been taken to verify the calculations.

Humboldt presented to the Bureau des  
Longitudes his astronomical observations  
on the lunar distances, the eclipses  
of Jupiter's satellites, together with the  
barometrical elevations, which have been  
calculated and verified by M. Bory  
according to the formulae of La Place.

A condensed narrative of the Travels  
and Discoveries of Humboldt, has  
been published in 12mo. Vol. by W.



Macgillivray which is included in Harpers Family Library.

Sometime after the return of Humboldt from America, he set out on a journey to Asia to explore the most interesting parts of that region. He accomplished the task; but this part of his travels had not appeared, when Macgillivray wrote the condensed narrative in 1832.

The whole of the works of this learned traveller will afford the highest interest to men of science, and it is a matter of regret that more of them are not translated into our language.

The extensive scientific works which are constantly appearing in France, Germany and other nations on the old continent, prove most clearly the importance of studying their languages in our colleges, instead of the dead languages of Greece & Rome. Fruitful sources of Poetry and other works adapted to the young but not of science and useful knowledge. And I hesitate not



to say, that until these defunct and  
 disquoting branches of instructed know-  
 ledge, shall be less attended to in our  
 Colleges, science among our scholars  
 will remain at a low ebb. The  
 tinsel thrown over them by long  
 custom, may for some time to come,  
 excite the stare of the unthinking; but  
 the <sup>enlightened</sup> will at length perceive that  
 the science of modern nations  
 is not to be rejected for the mytholog-  
 ical jargon of the ancients. When the  
 nations of Europe first emerged from  
 their barbarous state, the little of  
 science known, was locked up  
 in Greek and Latin authors; but all  
 that has been found useful <sup>in them</sup> is now  
 translated, and is hardly worth our  
 study of them at this day, to spend our  
 time to perceive their "beauty of style".  
 Modern authors furnish us with  
 all that is wanted in this particular.  
 The sooner we rid ourselves of this  
 ignis fatuus the better. Future gener-  
 ations will smile at our long delusion,  
 but they will perceive the cause.



31 In the House, March 1<sup>st</sup> a Communication was received from the Antimasonic Members of the Legislature, opposed to the nomination of Martin Van Buren as a candidate for the next Presidency, requesting the use of the Representative Chamber, on Wednesday evening next week, for holding a Convention therein which was granted.

The nomination of Mr Van Buren by a convention of Antimasons, has led to this step, and it appears that a difference of opinion prevails among our friends which I regret to see. our opponents will instantly seize on this division and use it for the furtherance of their designs. As respects myself I have regretted that the first convention should have selected Mr Van Buren instead of Mr Webster; the latter we know to be an Antimason, the former we only infer to be such, and the inference may be fallacious. Why our old friend Mr Hallett should be so zealously in favor of the former, I



I cannot readily decide. As an influential anti-mason we have considered him one of the first in the state, and of his talents we have always been proud; but in this movement we consider him to have committed an error. He seems to be rather too strongly attached to the democratic society. We do not object to the term, if it means the republican society, such as was Gen. Washington; but judging from the Hallett's severe remarks on the Hartford Convention we are inclined to believe, by democracy, he means that of the Jefferson and others who were opposed to Gen. Washington; some of whom congratulated themselves on the degradation of the latter from office, "that he was reduced to the level of his fellow citizens, and was no longer able to enforce the principles of republicanism". This division among anti-masons we regret, and think that the dispute about the presidency, ought not to have precluded it. Time and reflection we hope will cure the breach, when we shall unite in our great object, the destruction of masonry.



32 Tichnor of Boston advertises a New and improved Edition of the Geography of the Heavens, and Clasp Book of Astronomy, accompanied by a Celestial Atlas - by Elisha Burritt A.M. 3<sup>d</sup> Edition, with an introduction by J. Dicks. L.L.D., author of the Christian Philosopher.

This I had supposed was an American work, but as Dr Dicks has written the introduction I think it must be English. The Celestial Atlas, if well executed, must be valuable as a substitute for a celestial Globe.

33

John Ledgard

The following tribute of respect has been bestowed on the female sex, by this excellent and Engraver.

"I have observed among all nations, that the women ornament themselves more than the men; that wherever found, they are the same kind, civil, obliging, humane, tender beings; that they are ever inclined to be gay and cheerful, timorous and modest. They do not hesitate, like



men, to perform a hospitable or generous action; not haughty, nor arrogant, nor supercilious, but full of courtesy, and fond of society; industrious, economical, ingenious; more liable in general to err than man, but in general also more virtuous, and performing more good actions than he. I never addressed myself in the language of elegancy and friendship to a woman, either civilized or savage, without receiving a cheerful and friendly answer. With men it has often been otherwise. In wandering over the barren plains of inhospitable Denmark, through honest Sweden, frozen Lapland, rude and churlish Finland, unprincipled Russia, and the wide spread regions of the wandering Tartar, if hungry, dry, cold, wet, or sick, a woman has ever been friendly to me, and uniformly so; and to ascribe to this virtue, so worthy of the appellation of benevolence, those actions have been performed in so free and kind a manner, that if I was dry I thank the sweet chaunt, and if



Ledyard's Death.

hungry ate the coarse morsel, with a double relish.

This enterprising man was born at Groton in Connecticut in 1751, and after circumnavigating the earth in the latter part of Capt. Cook, and traversing many parts of Russia, died at Cairo in Egypt Nov-1788, while preparing for an extensive tour into the interior of Africa, under the patronage of the African Association. His Life has been given to the public by George Sproke, in an 8vo. vol; and also in the Family Library of the Harpers. A more particular account of Ledyard's descent of Connecticut River, from Hanover to Hartford, in a canoe of his own construction, previous to the commencement of our revolutionary war, would afford us much satisfaction at this day.

At the time Ledyard made his voyage down the River he had the prediction of Dr Darwin,

"Soon shall thy arm, unconquered stem!  
 Afloat,  
 Drag the slow barge or drive the rapid  
boat"



## Reflections

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not his eye, and he has told that in 1834 a heavy boat, <sup>officers</sup> would ascend as high as the mouth of our river, by this power alone, he would have smiled at the predictions, as the visionary observations of the utopian philosophers. But wonderful as it is, we have the satisfaction of seeing the predictions fulfilled. \*

### 34 of a well regulated Mind.

In his view of the qualities & ~~acquirements~~ which constitute a well regulated mind, Dr. Abercrombie ranks them under the following heads, See part 5<sup>th</sup> of "Inquiries concerning the Intellectual Powers and the Investigation of Truth" 1 Vol. 2 Edition.

1. The cultivation of a habit of steady and continuous attention; or, if so far as directing the mind to any subject which is before it, so as fully to contemplate its elements and relations — — — — — 2.

\* The first Steam Boat from Newport up the River was called the Sedgwick; but the present one that reaches us, has the name of Arct. Cooley.



2. Nearly connected with the former, and of equal importance, is a careful regulation and control of the succession of our thoughts.

3. The cultivation of an active inquiring state of mind which seeks for information from every source that comes within its reach, whether in reading, conversation, or personal observation.

4. The habit of correct association; that is connecting facts in the mind according to their true relations, and to the manner in which they tend to illustrate each other.

5. A careful selection of the subjects to which the mind ought to be directed.

6. Active regulation and proper control of the imagination; that is, restricting its range to objects which harmonize with truth, and are adapted to the real state of things with which the individual is or may be connected.

7. The cultivation of calm and correct judgment - applicable alike



to the formation of opinions, and the regulation of conduct.

Under the 5<sup>th</sup> head the Dr has the following remarks.

"These are in some respects different in different persons, according to their situation in life; but there are certain objects of attention which are peculiarly adapted to each individual, and there are some which are equally interesting to all. In regard to the latter, an appropriate degree of attention is the fault of every wise man; in regard to the former, a proper selection is the foundation of excellence. One individual may waste his powers in that chattering application of them which leads to an imperfect acquaintance with a variety of subjects; while another allows his life to steal over him in listless inactivity or application of trifling pursuits. It is equally melancholly to see high powers devoted to unworthy objects; such as the contests of party on matters involving no important principle, or the subtleties of sophistical



# Indicuous Directions

-controversy. For rising to eminence in any intellectual pursuit, there is not a rule of more essential importance than that of doing one thing at a time; avoiding distracting and dissuatory occupations; and keeping a leading object habitually before the mind, as one in which it can at all times find an interesting resource when necessary avocations allow the thought to recur to it. A subject which is cultivated in this manner, not by regular periods of study merely, but as an habitual object of thought rises up and expands before the mind in a manner which is altogether astonishing. If along with this habit there be cultivated the practice of constantly writing such { Pursuing views as arise, we perhaps describe of writing that state of mental discipline by which talents of a very moderate order may be applied in a conspicuous and useful manner to any subject to which they are elevated. Such writing need not be made at first with any great



attention to method, but merely put aside for future consideration; and in this manner the different departments of a subject will develop and co-  
range themselves as they advance in a manner <sup>equally</sup> pleasing and wonderful."

The method proposed by Dr Abercrombie accords with my own observations, and I had adopted it <sup>in part</sup> previous to the perusal of his works. By keeping the mind intent upon certain objects, and binding my studies to them, I have never been at a loss what authors to select for perusal; and this has given a utility which I think cannot be attained by a cursory perusal of ~~books~~ on subjects which I have deemed indifferent.

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35 Division Among Antislavery

In the Boston Advocate of the 7th of March, we find the following from the pen of B. F. Hestlett Esq.

"Every individual or real antislavery man who now takes the ground of opposition to the regular nomination



of the anti-masonic Convention, unites himself to the Whig party. He has no alternative. He may call himself an anti-mason, as much as he pleases. He is nothing but a Whig, supporting Whig Inscriptions, Whig doctrines and Whig masons. If there are any good natured Friends in our party, who love the Whigs the better, the more they are beaten by them, let them enlist under Gen. Longley and George Johnson. Such men only weaken any party to which they pretend to belong.

It has been my aim to keep anti-masonry informed and united, as the only means to destroy the pernicious institution of masonry; and hitherto Mr. Mullett has been a most powerful coadjutor. But by the foregoing paragraph he has taken the most direct course he possibly could, to produce a division which would not easily be united. His zeal for Mr. Year Brewer, seems to carry him to extravagant lengths, and if he



does not destroy our cause, he will  
work a great injury to it. What has  
the prudence of the M. S. to do with  
continuing? We should, it is true  
prefer a conciliator who is opposed  
to the institution of slavery, to one  
who is not, and further reason some  
one select Mr. Webster, who we know is  
opposed to it. But according to  
Mr. Hallett's doctrine no one even a  
real antislavery in favor of Mr. W. can  
claim to be genuine. The paragraph  
we have given above, we hope was  
written in one of his unguarded mo-  
ments, and which on a little re-  
flection we trust he will acknow-  
ledge, was untrue and highly in-  
jurious to our cause. Should he  
however persist in similar vituper-  
ations, we shall be compelled to con-  
sider him, instead of a friend, ex-  
most decided enemy <sup>to it</sup>. We hope he  
will pause and reflect on the ten-  
dency of his course, and give no fur-  
ther cause to our opponents, by opinion  
our unnecessary divisions.



The weather

36 Since our last notice under this head (the 21<sup>st</sup> of February) the weather has generally been cold and dry and the water in our wells very low. Yesterday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 1836 we had a rain but not in great quantity; the snow is a little reduced but where drifted it continues in many places, nearly to the top of the fences, and gloomy winter holds it reign. As I have anticipated, our farmers, especially in the hill towns, begin to be distressed from a want of fodder for cattle, and hay has already sold from 20 to 25 dollars a ton. Indian corn is good at one Dollar, and most of the necessities of life are high. Our farmers may suffer much before the snow is dissolved and vegetation clothes the ground.

The present winter deserves the name of the cold winter of 1835-'36, not less so than that of 1779-'80. The severity of the winter will, by some, no doubt, be attributed to the influence of Halley's Comet which appeared



last fire; but this I think has had no effect on the weather. If it could be shown that the earth had been enveloped in the comet's tail, which rendered our atmosphere more turbid than usual, there might be some foundation for the supposition. But this will not be contradicted by any accounts with the positions of the two bodies, during the appearance of the comet; at no time was the tail in the direction of the earth. Changes of climate, it will be found, are not at all effected by planetary or cometic influence. The hypothesis of interstellar fires, affords a more probable solution of these changes; and if this be admitted, the only question will be, why the effect of these fires should be different in different seasons? Future observations will discover many further details on this subject, and, perhaps, indications which may enable philosophers to predict, with some degree of certainty, the state of an approaching winter.



Greenfield Petition.

39 In an old Book which is <sup>sometimes</sup> cited as good authority, we have a case, ~~and~~ ~~that~~ which bears some analogy to that now before Legislature, (Election Greenfield and Deerfield) Whether the gentlemen of the Law will consider it of equal authority with Blackstone. I know not; but if it is inadmissible in our modern Judicial Courts. I believe it will not be rejected as obsolete, by a Committee of a Legislature who admit its validity. I refer to the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Book of Kings, and will quote a few of its verses.

1. "And it came to pass, after those things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, hemmed by the place of Ashab king of Samaria.

2. And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it either vineyard or than it; or if it



seem good to thee I will give thee <sup>the</sup> worth  
of it in money.

3. And Naboth said to Chab, the Lord  
forbid it, <sup>me</sup> that I should give thee  
inheritance of my Feathers unto  
thee.

4. And Chab came into his house hea-  
vy and displeased, because of the word  
which Naboth the Jezreelite had  
spoken to him; for he had said  
I will not give thee the inheritance  
of my feathers. And he laid him down  
upon his bed, and turned away  
his face, and would eat no bread.

5. But Jezebel his wife came to him,  
and said unto him, why is thy  
spirit so sad, that thou eatest no  
bread? —

As the story is of some length I will  
endeavor to condense it.

Chab's remembrance sad and still re-  
fused <sup>to eat</sup>, dispraising of gaining possession  
of his favorite garden. Not so with  
the cruel Jezebel. She it seems, did  
not dispraise of the garden. It was fair  
and furnished a pleasant promenade



for her ladyship, and being near her house, probably she had often visited it and ~~seen~~<sup>noted</sup> its beauties. Naboth's attachment to it, because it was the inheritance of his fathers, did not lessen her cupidity. She first attempted to rouse the King from his despondency, by reminding him of his <sup>exalted</sup> ~~clignity~~<sup>dignity</sup>. "Dost thou not govern the kingdom of Israel? wise counsel bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite". Now her insidious arts were put in requisition, since it seems they were ready. She writes letters in the name of Ahab, to the Elders and Nobles sealed with his seal, accusing Naboth of the crimes of blasphemy & treason, and sent men of Belial to prove the charges. The scheme succeeded, and Naboth was found guilty and stoned to death.

Having thus accomplished her object, she went to Ahab and apprised him of it. ~~on which Ahab~~  
Ahab was immediately cured of his



The case I have cited from this  
old authority, appears to me to be  
 analogous to the one before the com-  
 mittee: in one particular it is strik-  
 ingly so. The vineyard of Naboth  
 was near to the house of Ahab - he  
 wanted it for a garden of herbs; in  
 modern language for a Botanic  
 garden to embellish his palace;  
 and perhaps he thought his sub-  
 jects would thus "have greater fa-  
 cilities of access to the means of Edu-  
 cation", which he believed were  
 not to be found in Jezreel. But  
 Naboth was deaf to the ~~insidious~~  
 entreaties of the King. He indignantly  
 repelled the unjust demand. The  
 Lord forbade it me, that I should  
 give the Inheritance of my Brethren  
unto thee.

In one point the cases <sup>are</sup> differ-  
 ent. Ahab offered Naboth an equiv-  
 alent, in land or money. Not so with  
~~the~~ modest <sup>Christian</sup> ~~citizens~~. No! the Gov-  
 ernor is wanted because it is near  
 to the ~~house~~ <sup>house</sup> and their families  
 would find "greater facilities of ac-  
 cess" to the seat of political learning.  
 Hence near the Palace!  
 I. See our other side (note) without



Without further comment (gentlemen,  
I leave the case in your hands, with  
the hope, that if a justice has been  
at work in this project, the fate  
of what will not exist its pro-  
jectors; and whatever may be  
your decision, I also hope, no  
evil, <sup>will</sup> be brought upon their  
sides, or their house". In the du-  
tiful <sup>negotiation</sup> language of Nathaniel Tenny,  
~~to the~~ <sup>it</sup> I will further, that I should  
you the inimitable of any father  
into this".

From the purport of your  
to I thought not by ~~instructed~~  
The inimitable of Stonery may  
(also be laid out of the case) for  
what can any <sup>business</sup> be the act of justice  
we ~~do not~~ <sup>never</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>time</sup> they will ex-  
tend to this. An Elyah <sup>has</sup> ~~is not~~  
~~appeared~~ <sup>opened</sup> the eyes of Abraham, and  
~~is not~~ <sup>is not</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>our</sup> Gaelm of hubs  
is not to be instructed from us by all  
the act of a justice <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ instructed  
~~is not~~ <sup>is not</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>our</sup> Gaelm of hubs



Chyspeasy; he rose from his bed  
"to go down to the vineyard of Net  
both to take possession of it". —

But retributive justice was not asleep.  
The Lord sent Elisha the Gishbite  
to Ahab, with heavy denunciations  
against him and his family: "because  
he had sold himself to work evil  
in the sight of the Lord."

When Ahab heard the words from  
Elisha, he was struck with his  
sickness, rent his clothes, and  
put on sackcloth, fasted, and lay  
in his robes, and went softly.

"Once the word of the Lord came to  
Elisha the Gishbite, saying — Seest thou  
how Ahab humbleth himself be-  
fore me? — because he humbleth  
himself before me, I will not bring  
the evil in his days; but in his  
son's days will I bring the evil  
upon his house". —

Now for the case I have cited,  
is analogous to the one before the  
Committee, I leave to their judgment  
~~of the Committee~~. I will not say  
that



This is a small square: 7 1/4 miles by 4 miles is nearest. In this square  
 situate and including parts of township. Hence the area, by enough  
 of summation, 19,007 acres, but this not good. Specially correct  
 & handled by a similar method 12,770 acres. But would not include in both

that a Gizebel has been at work,  
 nor that the gate of Phab will avert  
 the projectors, <sup>of the petition</sup> what ever may be the  
 result of the plan, I hope no evil  
 will be brought upon their "sons  
 or their "hairs".

### Estimated Area of Deerfield.

Though we have several maps of  
 the town, it does not appear that  
 the area of its present limits, has  
 been accurately given. Its extent  
 from north to south on a right line  
 is about 7 miles, and east & west,  
 about 3 miles, but it is somewhat  
 multangular. But if reduced to  
 a parallelogram, I think it would  
 not differ greatly from one of 7 miles  
 by 3 for its two sides. This then  
 will give 21 square miles, = 13,440  
 acres including the ponds and river.  
 A township of 4 miles square, which  
 is the usual size in our country,  
 contains 23,040 acres and the differ-  
 ence is 9,600 acres, less than in ordi-  
 nary townships. The area of the



Area Included in Temple's Petition 105

tract to be set off to Greenfield, by the  
prayer of the petitioners of Philo Temple  
and others, may be equal to a small  
-piece of about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles, by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a  
mile, making an area of 1320 acres

From the area of Deerfield	13440
Deduct area of the Petitioners	1320
Leaves in Deerfield	12120 acres

a little over half a township of 6  
miles square.

Population by last census 2003

Last valuation. \$ 525,162,72

The tract proposed to be set off to  
Greenfield, includes all that part of the  
See p 62 8000 acres granted to Deetham, that lies  
north of Deerfield River; and also  
all the lands reserved for the use  
of the ministry in Deerfield, now the  
property of the North Parish in this town.  
Once have the petitioners included the meet-  
ing house. I should have received the  
attempt as equitable as that for which  
the signers lay claim. Nor is it to be  
surprised any committee, who under-  
stand it in all its bearings, will sustain  
even for a moment.



On a ~~Petition~~ of the inhabitants of the town, presented to the General Court May 1693, the Court granted a "township", as <sup>an</sup> addition to the 8000 acres formerly granted to Dedham, equal to the content of 9 miles square. This was bounded westerly by a line called the seven mile line, and included the greater part of the present towns of Deerfield, Greenfield and Gill, Connecticut River being the eastern boundary.

In May 1712, the west line of the town was extended, by the Gen. Court, "9 miles from the Connecticut into the woods, as Northampton & Hatfield doe"; and two islands in the Connecticut, against the town were included in the grant. This addition comprehended the present towns of Conway & Shillbourn.

The seven mile line was run N 19° E. Suppose a parallel to the general course of the Connecticut, and the extended grant of 1712. was bounded west on a line parallel to the 7 mile line. — Example



Greenfield, bounded south on the  
 8000 acre Grant, was set off from Deerfield  
 June 9-1753. bounding east on the  
 west end of the first tier of lots west  
 of the 7 mile Line; north on Coham,  
 Lyden and Benewatston and east  
 on Connecticut River, and included the  
 present town of Gill. Greenfield at the  
 time of separation was called a District,  
 and was connected with Deerfield in  
 the choice of a Representative.

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### Florida War.

No important movements of our army  
 have been made up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of March,  
 and it remains to be seen whether the con-  
 tact will soon be terminated. Cf. Mr Wyeth  
 of Tallahassee, writes as follows.

The Indian force may be estimated at 4,000  
 fighting men, including negroes - the country  
 they occupy being about 300 miles long  
 and 125 broad, the entire (two thirds) of  
 which is covered with a chain of lakes,  
 studded with islands, and almost entirely  
 glades, chequered with lagoons, and  
 deep narrow streams, making in all



Nature of the seat of War.

climbers into the sea, and covered over with mats and evergreens and high grass; the other part being fertile land, abounding in corn & corn root, an excellent substitute for bread, and producing a variety of fruits; - the adjacent forests filled with wild game, and the adjacent waters filled with fish and wild fowl. Mr. Wyeth further expresses his opinion that the Indians who have had much intercourse, and some intermarriages with the Spanish fishermen, entertain the vain hope of finally escaping to the West Indies, with their negroes, and that it is <sup>wise</sup> necessary to encompass them by blockhouses on land, and armed vessels on boats by water, so as to break up all communication between them and the Spanish fishermen, and runaway negroes, or they may keep up a petty war with us for the next five years. He recommends a line of blockhouses, extending from the gulf to the Atlantic, about 20 miles extent, with small garrisons,



by the way of Wetumkee and Nicola-  
ta, to some point south of Augustus;  
and says it will be impossible to follow  
the savages by land during the rainy  
season; and that a new expedition  
to the cape and everglades, is not to  
be looked for sooner than August  
or September.

Why not an earlier expedition?  
Answer: Because the United States have  
little or no force ready for the service other  
than undisciplined men, to be drafted  
from the present militia - a miserable  
excuse for a nation that boasts of its  
means of defence as well to. But alas!  
it is so, and will remain so, until  
Langriss are roused from their se-  
piness, and remodel the militia;  
giving up the childish notion that  
every citizen of the United States is  
a soldier; than which never was  
a more absurd notion entertained  
by men of common sense. Time  
will cure the evil, but individ-  
uals will suffer until this takes  
place.



## My Winter Lectures.

40 During the severe winter, which ~~has~~  
 I hope is nearly past, though dated a  
 Reproductive for Deerfield, I have  
 remained at home, not choosing to venture  
 myself at Boston with my lame limb  
 and other infirmities. I have not, how  
 1834 even, been an idle spectator of events;—  
 the newspapers and other publica-  
 tions of the day, have furnished <sup>me</sup> with  
 their history, and it is with regret that  
 I observe a restless spirit among our  
 people. One would have supposed  
 that so long after our Constitution had  
 been in operation, we should have  
 settled down into a fixed system  
 of repose; but this is not the case,  
 we are in pursuit of new projects, and  
 busying in the Legislatures of our  
 Country, as if our <sup>numbers</sup> were as if  
 we have just commenced our career  
 of Government. I had predicted that  
 the Legislature, having held an extra  
 session last year, would find little busi-  
 ness at the present. But this is not the  
 case. By accounts up to the 15<sup>th</sup> of  
 March it appears, petitions are



1836

Proceedings of the Legislature

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constantly coming in, and unless the Legislature continues through the coming Spring, much of the business must be put over to the next session.

This state of things indicates that we are far from a settled state, and in what it will end is doubtful. The right of petitioning the Legislature is a provision of the Constitution; but is there not some mode by which this can be regulated, so as to dispose of them more expeditiously, and shorten our sessions? Suppose all petitions for the alteration of laws, or for enacting new ones, as well as those for incorporation, were required to be published in the news papers, some time previous to the sitting of the Legislature, would not this system check the number, and <sup>by</sup> giving previous notice to the people, of most the business. Should this be put in practice, the delay, from orders of notice would be avoided, and the people would know what course to take concerning them. Unless something be done to cure the present evil, we <sup>must</sup> continue in



a state of turmoil, strife and confusion, as much perhaps to be dreaded by the peaceful man, as the calm of a despotism.

Were none but honest and honorable men intrusted with the government, these difficulties would cease; but as the people are the first victims of fraud, they have the right to intrust it with such as they please; and as they are not <sup>obliged</sup> free from error and conclusion they may sometimes err in the choice of ~~their~~ rulers; who from a want of true patriotism pursue measures rather for their own aggrandizement, than that of their country.

Since this evil is to be avoided is perhaps difficult to show. One thing however is certain; where a people are honest and enlightened, the more they place in power will be so too.

It is important then it is, that the people should be well instructed in all branches of learning, which enlighten and moralize them?



41 In page 1. we have noticed this affair which took place on the 28 of December last. on the 20<sup>th</sup> February a force of about 1000 men arrived on the ground where the unfortunate event happened. Some of the slain collected and buried them, and placed the cannon which was lost in the action, at the head of the graves. The number found was 92 none were officers and privates, and 8 officers. Part of the slain were found in a well triangular work, suddenly constructed, the bodies lying parallel to each other, with their heads towards the logs, over which it is supposed they fired upon the Indians. The bodies were much decayed, but ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> of their clothing was left upon them. The account states that the attack was not made from a hammock, but in a thinly wooded country; the Indians being concealed by palmetto and grass. No accurate account of this affair has been given; three men only escaped to Tampa Bay, and this account is imperfect. This affair was nearly similar



to that of Capt. Lathrop at Bloody Brook in this town, in Philip's War, that Major Dade's force was rather large, and consisted of 2 companies of Militia; and it is supposed the attack on his baggage was the first notice he had of the proximity of the Indians. Whether he proceeded with due caution is uncertain, and probably his troops were soon surrounded by the Indians who are supposed to have been from 800 to 1000; but this must be bare conjecture.

Had the force of Dade been well disciplined light infantry or riflemen and on the first attack, extended into two <sup>of single ranks</sup> lines, some distance apart and reloaded in this order as rapidly as possible, the affair might not have been so disastrous. But the force was rather too small to furnish the requisite extensive grounds and flanks; and, perhaps, no rules can be given for securing so small a body when attacked suddenly by such a numerical superiority in the woods.



The great object to be kept in view, in marching through a covered country, especially where the Indians are of considerable force, is to proceed in such a manner that the enemy may be discovered by the out parties before the main body is attacked. A Regiment of ~~about~~ 800 men, if well conducted can do this, on any ground; and if the enemy are much superior in number, make a ~~wise~~ retreat, by abandoning its baggage. If suddenly surrounded, by forming into a square, a formidable resistance may be made.

In the war of 1755, the famous frontiersman, Major Robert Rogers, often conducted parties of Rangers through the woods infected with Indians, and was seldom surprised. He practised a system of movements of his men, which I think was, in general, very judicious and well worth the attention of military Officers. It may be found in his Journal published in London 1745, in an 8vo. vol. page 60. one of his modes of retreating when attacked by a force much



much superior, was to disperse his men in small parties, with orders to encloze one of some point fixed on by him the preceding day, and make known to each man. By this plan, when the river was left open by the enemy, his men could retreat as far as the enemy could advance and by seizing advantageous ground often check their pursuit. The parties in such a case should, if possible, be under the command of officers or non commissioned officers. So also in case his troops were broken and driven from the ground, they were to retreat in parties, and collect at the place assigned the preceding day. Men unacquainted in the art of war may suppose such a retreat to be cowardly; but experienced officers, will seldom compute their men to stand and be shot down, where there is no probability of success. Such conduct is more foolhardiness and deserves the severest reprehension.

In the case of Major Dade, we should not, his troops displayed great bravery and sold their lives at the dearest rate;



but being untried, unaccustomed to light infantry movements, they may have been unavoidably sacrificed when light troops would have saved themselves by a judicious retreat. See the sketch of movement of Gen. Ross' army in the march to Warburgton, page 5 and 6; in which the light corps felt the way in such a manner that they could not have been surprised by an enemy however crafty.

The art of war is difficult and requires much study on the part of the commander, and in <sup>ded</sup> of the officer acting in execution. In a closely covered country it becomes more so, and here light corps of much discipline & troops are of the greatest importance.

I know not much of the character of the officers of our little army; but their services being confined chiefly to garrison duty, it would not be strange if they should be found deficient in the field. They are I believe in general, high spirited and honorable gentlemen; and those who have been educated at West Point cannot be ignorant of the general principles



Qualification of

of war; but they may lack experience, and <sup>some</sup> others who have not thus been educated, suppose on receiving a commission that a cadence, feather and epaulettes and their Book of tactics, with a little expenture of exercise will qualify them for command. "The military profession, says an able officer, is not designed for debauchees, nor for those who are too fond of pleasure. It requires, in a higher degree than any other, that strength and bodily vigor, which can bear with indifference, or even with cheerfulness, inconveniences and difficulties. A robust constitution indicates strength and energy of mind; though this is a circumstance not sufficiently attended to in military institutions"

Hence ~~then~~ those designed for the military profession, must accustom themselves early to the inclemency and changes of the seasons; to hunger, thirst, fatigue, unusual toils, and extraordinary exertions. The officer of light troops in particular, must learn to be content



without the delicacies of the table; for he will often be exposed to want; must perforce of course eat scanty meals, & frequently be wholly deprived of food. His lodgings sometimes a cavern in the rock, or the earth; at other times the spreading branches of a tree, or the woods affording him the only shelter from the cold and howling storms of winter. Such are the hardships common to the service of troops in the field, and particularly of light troops, and the young officer must meet them with steady resolution, and without a murmur. persevere in the discharge of his duty, until he has hardened his body and mind to every fatiguing exertion.

"By cuts like these  
"Laconic murd' of old he hardy sons;  
"Once Rome's unconquered lions roared this way,  
"Went through every toil, in every clime."

In the Introduction to my Military Regulations for the Cavalry, I have treated more largely on the subject of the qualifications of officers.



42 This Gazette, having witnessed the operations of the militia who have been called to the field, begins to open its eyes on the inefficiency of such troops.

It says, "War is a profession, and those who are to follow it should be taught its mysteries (principles) by being subjected, not to its dangers merely, but to its toils and privations. To suppose that militia have not as much animal courage and moral firmness as regular troops, would be to suppose that the same elements do not enter into the composition of evil men alike. But the age of chivalry is past, and the present (so far as efficiency in war, and particularly offensive war is concerned) is the age of discipline."††

It seems to be agreed that this war must now be carried on by tedious marches and constant exposure. The Indians have fled to their coverts and they must be hunted and ferreted out. Their cover places must be won, or we by



1836 acre, and who are they who are to perform the daily marches and nightly vigils, indispensable in such a service? Population hostility from the peaceful vocations of civil life? The surplus revenue (not of Slaves but of the United States) would be exhausted before the Indians could be driven from the Peninsula by such means."

We are highly gratified to perceive one symptom of returning sanity in a newspaper published within the United States, and any further boastings of the efficiency of our militia we hope will cease. A war with a powerful nation we know would produce this effect; but we hardly thought that hostility with a tribe of Indians would produce so important a change of sentiment. Now let Congress awake and place our militia on a respectable footing for active service on any emergency. The importance of a select corps ready for the field, must now appear to every man of common sense who will reflect on the subject.

In



In the old part of the United States real military men begin to see and acknowledge the futility of our militia system; but the western people boast of their marital spirit. In a late Report of a Committee of Congress for granting pensions to those engaged in the Indian wars after the peace with Great Britain in 1883, they say "It is true that the marital spirit has been maintained in the west in its full vigor. It is true that the war under consideration was the school in which the marital spirit was formed and matured. It is true that the circumstances under which the western country was settled, made it the nursery of soldiers. The marital spirit that had its growth in the western wilderness, brought the first wave to a glorious termination, and was the shield of this Union in the last". They exclaim "The day will come when the sea board, enriched by wealth and luxury, will have to involve the marital spirit behind the

The



the mountains for protection against  
foreign invasion."

This martial spirit of the Committee  
is a misnomer; had they given it the  
name of the hunting spirit the term  
would have been appropriate; and  
that the hunters of the west form the  
best militia, we are willing to admit;  
because they are hardy and the best  
marksmen, the only valuable quali-  
ties of undisciplined men. But for  
military use they are of little  
worth, and when placed in the school  
of regular discipline they are found  
to be <sup>but</sup> refractory scholars. At the com-  
mencement of the revolutionary war, our  
militiamen were not unlike those of  
the west at this time, and no doubt  
were the best of militia; but if we can  
rely on the repeated declaration of Gen.  
Washington and other officers, they were  
totally unfit for use.

For a sudden expedition our western  
brethren may be of some service, so  
far as their marksmanship & hardihood  
qualify them; but no reliance can  
be



The Hunter not a poor Soldier.

be placed on them for protracted service; though when the will, fight if they choose, and return to their families when they please; their hunting spirit will at length be lost, when they will be found indocile, and may have to rely on the disciplined troops of the sea-board for their defence.

The hunter with his rifle and hatchet is formidable against the wild beasts of the forest, and may perform great feats; but when placed in the ranks of a Battalion where he is to act in concert with those around him, according to the mechanical rules of discipline, his prowess is lost; and his independent spirit will not often submit to <sup>the</sup> discipline essentially necessary to form the real soldier. In short such men cannot be relied on for the defence of a country when attacked by a powerful enemy with a manfully disciplined army; and our boasting of the efficiency of our present militia is a demonstration, that we are ignorant of the art of war in its present improved state.



43 From the N.Y. J. Com. we have the following account. Gen. Gaines who had joined Gen. Clinch at Fort Huger on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February with 1100 men being on his return to Tampa Bay, (with it is supposed, the same force) arrived on the banks of Withlacoochie where he fell in with a powerful body of Indians, represented to be not less than 1500, who gave him battle, determined either to conquer or die. Although he had resolutely maintained his ground, and destroyed considerable numbers of the Indians, yet at the latest dates, his situation was extremely critical, the more so as the contest must probably have been decided, one way or the other, before he could be aided by reinforcements. The intelligence we consider as doubtful. Should it prove correct and Gaines be beaten, it will be a singular event. His force is supposed to consist of 400 regulars & 700 volunteers; on the latter not much dependence is to be placed. Gen. St. Clair was beaten with a greater force, as well as Braddock.



Tour to Boston.

44. Business of the Town in the Legislature, requiring my attendance, I set out Sunday March about 4 P.M. and went on board of the 21<sup>st</sup> 1836 Stage by N. Salem, <sup>to Boston</sup> and arrived at Melington, the east village of New Salem, the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, about 9 o'clock. Found a good Tavern and clean bed and had a fine night's rest. At 5 o'clock A.M. after breakfast departed for Barre, where I took Stage for Worcester and arrived there about 1 o'clock the 21<sup>st</sup>. Here waited until 3 o'clock P.M.; then entered the rail road cars and arrived at Boston about 6 o'clock P.M. The snow from Barre to Worcester not more than a foot in depth, some bare spots of earth in the road. From Worcester to Boston the snow less than that in Worcester County.

Tuesday 22<sup>d</sup> attended the Legislature and took the usual oaths before the Gov. and Council. Some snow in the afternoon collected by N.E. wind. Found the Legislature full of business and not likely to rise for some time. Saw many old Friends <sup>and</sup> many <sup>new</sup> ones.



1836

The Bill for granting a Bank of 10 mil-  
lions of Dollars was debated by Mr Law-  
rence and Remond. The hour adjourned  
to 3 o'clock P.M. and the afternoon being  
stormy I did not attend. Of the utility  
of this Bank I have some doubts, and  
have hitherto thought we had a sufficient  
number of Banks in the State. Mr Law-  
rence remarked that the Country was  
in a state of improvement at pre-  
sent and that we have nothing to fear from  
War; and that it is, every thing is ab-  
sorbed in trade and we need no  
preparations for a different state of  
things. The maxim "in peace prepare  
for war" is forgotten, and we must  
wait for another opportunity before we  
open our eyes to a military defence.

The pavement in Boston are covered  
with ice, and wheel carriages glide  
along very pleasantly, and as we have  
of late much warmer weather, all are upon  
the highway.

Took Board at Leeches Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>  
at 4 Dollars per Week.

April 16 (Saturday) the Legislature closed



to its session, but the pay Roll was made to include Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. My attendance 27 days; travel 100 m = 74 Dollars. The whole Session 103 days - modest for the little state of mags.

April 19<sup>th</sup> Paid Russell Sherthrop and Co. for 400 Court's citations in fees. Mr Whitney handed me 10 dollars for post payment of the above.

The whole amount 40 Dollars.

Yesterday saw Mr Jared Sparks the great American Writer, who informed me that the 11<sup>th</sup> Vol. of the Washington Letters would finish the work except the front, containing the Life of the General. He was more agreeable and inviting on first acquaintance, than Mr. Sparks. He was familiar and seemed perfectly acquainted with me on the first moment. Enquired if I knew Dr Williams and mentioned that he was about to write the Biography of our John Williams. and enquired of me what Powell's journal, mentioned in my Purcell he wrote he had by him. While in



Mr. Fendler.

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Boston became acquainted with Mr. Fendler another literary gentleman well known to the public. He has just published a new Edition of his Terminologiae Locutionum, with alterations, and amendments, which he proposed to exchange for my antiquarian Researches. He is a grace looking gentleman, and at the first view a stranger would think him possessor of but little of the poetic gift. He informed me that his book was much varied from the first Edition, and that it contained some new matter, and <sup>he</sup> repeated a few lines of verse, on Phonology, in which I think he has but little faith.

Called on Adjutant Genl Dearborne and had a conversation on the militia in which he seemed to be too much attached to the French notions. He believed that our people were much owing to their enthusiasm while I attributed it to their discipline under a great master piece. He intimated that our militia would stand against regulars, and did not agree with me that our people were



Genl. Decatur

become effeminate. In short I think he has not sufficiently studied the Art of war in all of its branches. He no doubt possesses the spirit of an officer but a little more attention to the subject, would correct some of his notions. He agrees with me that our officers should be appointed rather than elected by their men; but this is forbid by the constitution which is ~~is~~ wrong. I mentioned to him Genl. Armstrongs notice of the war, but he had not seen it. I was soon convinced that he had strong prejudices against Armstrong since spoke of his blunders, in directing the movements of Wilkinson in the Canada expedition. Armstrongs criticisms on his Father's movements were no doubt imitated by Genl. Decatur, since I suspect he will condemn the work in toto. Be this as it may, I think the work of Armstrong will be useful for commanders of armies; though some of his criticisms may be unjust. C



Genl Dearborn's office I saw the Bill reported in Congress for a new militia law, and if it contains any improvements they are few, and not very important. The old system of gratuitous service is required of the man; and so long as this prevails we shall not have an efficient militia; and this I think will continue until we have a war at our doors. The Bill was sent to Genl Dearborn by Gov Lincoln, a gentleman who knows almost as much of the art of war as I do of the Greek language; and probably this is the case with a great majority of Congress. At present I look for no radical improvements in our militia system. A war may cure our stupidity and nothing else will.

Banks, mercantile affairs and the scramble for office will again engross our attention, and we shall soon forget the danger which threatens us on the late misunderstanding with France. Invasion will be forgotten and we shall think ourselves safe from harm.



Bunker Hill Monument

45 The erection of monuments to commemorate great events, seems to be congenial to the feelings of most men of reflecting minds: even those placed on the battle grounds of our Revolution serve as striking monuments to keep alive the traits and dangers of our fathers in the great struggle for independence. For myself it would be pleasing to see them raised on all of our <sup>notable</sup> battle fields. But if erected they should be within the bounds of moderate expenditures and constituted of the most durable materials. One on Bunker Hill to mark the place of that battle would gratify the curious traveller. But its projectors have run into a great error in attempting too much. A "Lighthouse in the sky" of feet is not required: it is considered by the people as extravagant and foolish. Ten thousand dollars would have been an ample sum, and then would have been easily obtained by subscription. But the taste of



our Boston friends could not be  
limited to so small a sum. The con-  
sequence is, they find themselves in-  
capable to complete the projected pile  
within the aid of the State. A scheme  
is now on foot to induce the Legisla-  
ture to purchase the lands the com-  
pany have obtained, in the vicinity  
of the monument, and thereby enable  
them to complete the work; and  
this purchase it is supposed will  
amount to 33,000 dollars, which added  
to the sum already expended will make  
the moderate sum of about  
dollars, a cost considered in any point  
of view advantageous in the extreme.

The Battle of Bunker Hill, though  
the theme of much boasting on the part  
of the numerous evincing little know-  
ledge of the art of war in the com-  
manders of the provincial troops.  
Being on a peninsula with a narrow  
neck, the <sup>ground</sup> was wholly untenable while  
the British commanded the waters.  
and had they seized this neck, they  
would have captured, not only the



ammunition reloaded, but every man employed on it, without a battle. The occupation of the hill at that time was a violation of military rules; had we been masters of the waters the case would have been otherwise. No prudent commander would port a detachment of his army, where it may be cut off from communication with the main body, or its base.

The occupation of Dacotia point subsequently by Genl Washington was not a similar case; here the river was open and his force numerically superior to the enemy, and if beaten from his ground might have retired with safety.

The Battle on Burnside Hill only shows that undisciplined troops will fight when pushed to hand work, where there is more safety in standing, than in running away. The capture of the New Orleans at the close of the late war, is another sample of the same kind. Both are, however, often cited to show the prowess of our militia.



46 From the accounts up to the 20<sup>th</sup> of April in our papers, it appears the war with the Seminoles still continues. Genl Gaines after suffering great privations at the little Tacooche, since several attacks from the Indians, was at length relieved by a force which reached his camp with provisions. The Indians have now fallen back and dispersed into the morasses where it is difficult to attack them; and our troops, it is said, begin to be sickly. The war may continue some time, perhaps through the summer. Several of the militia corps have been dismissed and returned to their proper occupations in their respective States, no doubt cool of their ardor for the field.

About six months have elapsed since the war began with this <sup>paper</sup> ~~number~~ of Indians, and they still maintain their positions against all the force brought against them by the States. The General says, and says truly, that we are as yet but mere novices in the art of war. Our rulers do not yet see this - let them learn before it is too late.



47 April 21.<sup>st</sup> the weather still continues cold, but the ground at Boston is free from snow. On the Connecticut I am informed the snow still covers the ground to some depth, and the farmers are pined for want of food for their cattle. Indian corn is said to be eight shillings the bushel, and hay at 30 dollars the ton. I recollect no measure like this. The sun's declination is now  $11^{\circ} 58'$  N. and yet the warm rays are not felt, a haziness of the atmosphere prevents their penetration to the surface of the earth with much effect.

#### 48 Armstrong's Notices of the War.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vol of this work is now before the public, a 12mo of 263 pages, from the press at New-York. The 2<sup>d</sup> will be published with "all convenient dispatch". The first Vol. is confined to the <sup>early</sup> operations on the frontier; the second is to contain those on the Seaboard. &c. An appendix, with 6 chapters, make up the 1<sup>st</sup> Vol. handsomely printed in well sized type. Genl Armstrong adopts



the following method. The war is divided into campaigns under the various commanders, once the details are first given, though without great minuteness. These are followed by Remarks upon the operations in which the errors committed are pointed out and tested by strategic rules as laid down by approved writers: Grimoard's French work is mentioned.

The criticisms in the Notices, no doubt will be received, by the officers concerned, with disgust; and perhaps in some instances Gen. Carmichael may have committed errors not less censurable in his remarks. To point out errors in military operations is not so difficult as to avoid them. Yet this after sight may be of great use to commanders, in leading them to a careful study of their professions, before they attempt to command in the field. No one, however skilful, who conducts an army, is so gifted by nature or art, as to avoid many errors; but he who is the most studious in his profession, will commit less



than one of different character.

In his remarks upon the campaign on the Niagara in 1812 Gen Armstrong says - "The errors which signalize the close of this campaign in the north are numerous and striking. Those of Gen. Dearborn and Smyth appear to have been the result of constitutional defects - carelessness or inactivity of mind in the one, and infirmity of purpose in the other; while those of Van Rensselaer were obviously sins of ignorance, the offspring of that deficient knowledge, which every man must feel, who for the first time, and without any previous instruction, finds himself at the head of an army and on the eve of a Battle".

The errors of this campaign are concentrated upon, under eight heads; and if they be admitted as errors, we think a paragon and one may be found out. viz the grave error of declaring war on sentences no better than those uttered by our Government and which are



highly magnified in Gen. Cum-  
stons first Chapter. The truth is  
the men at the head of our govern-  
ment entertained the futile notion  
that a small force of undisciplined  
men might invade Canada and con-  
quer the province, without much oppo-  
sition from the inhabitants, who were  
ready to join us and afford them aid  
in the conquest. The result of the war  
proved the futility of our wild  
speculations, and taught us that  
as a ~~military~~ nation we are yet  
but novices in the art of war, and  
that an inefficient militia is of little  
or no use, when employed in the in-  
vasion of a country, defended by a  
small force of regular troops.

We shall wait with impatience  
for the 2<sup>d</sup> Vol. of Gen. Cumstons  
Notices of the war, on the Sea Board,  
entertaining the strongest belief that he  
will point out many errors that  
occurred ~~in the war~~, on this board.  
Had he furnished maps & plans, his work  
would have been more useful.



Recipe for a Cough, as given by  
 49 Justice Whitney of Quebec, to Robert  
 Williams of Boston, Nov. 12. 1835.

Stimmed Honey  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb  
 Balsam Tree 1 Wineglass.

Olive Oil 1 Do Do.

Lime or Lemon Juice, 1 gill:

The compound slowly simmered  $\frac{1}{2}$   
 an hour, and then bottled, to be  
 taken morning & evening, in doses of  
 a table spoonful for an adult, &  
 less for a child.

My Daughter <sup>Adeline</sup> being afflicted with  
 a dry hacking cough about 3 weeks,  
 took a spoonful of the above at  
 night and morning (= 2 doses) and  
 it effected a cure very soon.

The effect from the medicine was  
 colic & griping pain in the bowels  
 which went off on taking a dose of  
 castor oil. She felt a sort of burn-  
 ing of the skin during the operation  
 of the medicine. Mr. Whitney says  
 the dose is used in Quebec with  
 success, and is an excellent medicine  
 & harmless. Probably it is a good  
 medicine and of use in infant coughs.



50 The Philosophy of Living; or the way to enjoy life and its comforts by Caleb Tichnor M.D. Vol 12mo

This work is just from the press of the Harpers, making the 7th Vol of the excellent collection, and embraces many just rules in relation to diet and living. Unlike many late works on the same subject, it permits the use of the good things of this life to be used, ~~but~~ with moderation. Cooking and a good kitchen it holds to be indispensable to health, and that we should be guided in our diet by taste.

The work is in principle accordant with that of Dr Combe, but of a more practical nature; and perhaps better adapted to the people of the United States. It is well worth the attention of the Philosopher as well as <sup>the</sup> active man of business, and will serve to check the errors ~~which~~ arising from the utopian plans and visionary theories that have pervaded the press, in all parts of New England, in regard to innovations in established modes of living.



Excerpt of a Letter dated Monticello  
Florida, April 9<sup>th</sup> 1836.

51

The Indian news within the last two days, has astonished us. I am really afraid they have treated Gen Scott as they had before treated Gen Gaines. They whipped Gaines, and there is good reason to believe they have cut off all communication between Scott and the other forces. I saw yesterday a Gentleman immediately from East Florida, who assured me this was the fact. I think the information may be relied on. Osceola has taught the white man before this time, that he is a Gen. and a savage not to be treated with contempt. He now says that he was not at the first battle of the Withlacoochee, fought on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, and that if he had been, there not one white man should have crossed the River. He acknowledges that he is now nearly out of communication - but in the last week he has cut off Gen. Scott's baggage wagon on their way from Fort Duane to Withlacoochee, and it is very much



to be apprehended that he has gained enough ammunition to supply him for some time."

The opinion now seems to be, that the Seminole war will not soon terminate. In the House of Representatives, Mr White a member of Congress from Florida, said that Gen Scott would be compelled to disband nearly his whole force, and the Country would be left to the mercy of the savages for the whole summer. Had a sufficient force been ready on the commencement of the war, ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> might have been terminated in the course of the cool season, the only time for a campaign in Florida. Such a force might be found in a select militia, disciplined as they might be in time of peace, and held ready for service on the shortest notice. But we chuse to repose without preparation for war, and while this disposition continues, we must submit to the fatal consequences.

From late debates in Congress it appears that a general Indian



(143)  
4

Apprehensions of a General War.

were on our Southwestern frontier is apprehended, once a Bill is before the House authorizing the President to increase the military force of the U.S. for the defense of the frontiers. Mr Harrison stated that the Indians on the western frontiers are equal to a report of the War department, estimated to upwards of 150,000 souls and that it was generally believed they could bring from 30 to 40 thousand Warriors into the field. Mr Harrison said, "It is well known that regular troops were of very little service to chase those Indians if a war should break out". What class this gentleman mean by regular troops? Are men drawn from the  <sup>ranks</sup> of domestic life, totally unacquainted with the art of war, more formidable than instructed troops? - preposterous!

Mr Greeley seemed to entertain views of military discipline not less absurd. "When, said he, the blood stained flag should ever be brought



so near our territory that its folds could be seen, the valley of the Mississippi and Ohio and the whole western country would be poured upon that frontier; and that when the hunters of Kentucky and the Tennessee riflemen were in the field, the enemy had better look out."

The Granger may be a good civilian; but his military qualifications are presented in no enviable point of view, by such childish boasting. What profound ignorance of the art of war, is evidenced by many of our best men in Congress, as well as among others employed in civil life! This sickly chicanery must be removed before we can be prepared for a manly defense of our Country, when assailed by a powerful force. Truly we are, as the French say, mere novices in the art of War.

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52 The Franklin Mercury States that the north part of Deepford meadow is under water, and that the snow is not nearly off from the hills (April 26)



1836

52. Thursday June 28<sup>th</sup> the weather at Boston still continues cool and remarkably dry, and the atmosphere hozy. Vegetation begins to show itself upon the trees; the buds on the elm show themselves, and this day we had at dinner a mass of Grapes (clandestine). A residence in this City at this season, is by no means pleasant. We see very few of the beauties of the Country. From day to day the same rattling of coachages and trunks upon our ears with their eternal rumble, and the same huddled line of people are seen on the side walks, all in double quick time, in chase of their several objects. I sometimes trip to Washington street and visit the Bookstores to find new works; but am seldom gratified in finding them. Light reading is abundant, Calves periodicals; but the latter are often high and not always interesting. English Editions are very expensive and much beyond a Countryman's power. American Journals, Libels are the lowest piece of copy - 45 cents per vol. -



53 My quarters are in the vicinity of the Depot of the Lowell Road, where being trade in labor plys, and carriages are of ten seen loaded with passengers for the cars. The company are extending the ground on the northward part of the City by bringing in earth, to extend the adjacent streets, and two large blocks of brick-stones are nearly finished on the new-ground. By these improvements this part of the City may become a place of considerable mercantile business. Probably Rail Roads will be extended from Lowell in a northward and westerly direction, so as to command the trade of the country in those directions, and when this takes place the Depot in Boston must be a busy meet. The company appear to be very enterprising, and carry on all their works must be able to command large sums of money at all times.

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54 Scoville's Sactocation and other poems, by Miss <sup>to say</sup> Constance M.D. &c.  
A third american Edition of the



work has just appeared from the press  
of Russell Smith & Co. Boston, com-  
prised in a 12<sup>mo</sup> Vol of 264 pages.

The author of the work is the well  
known Thomas Green Sponder, to  
whom the public are so much  
indebted for many useful works.  
In this Edition several new sub-  
jects are introduced, among which are  
Phrenology, Abolition, Amalgamation,  
Temperance, Reformation &c. And  
we think he has well sustained his  
former character for serious and  
learned notes, on some of our hypo-  
thetical Philosophies.

The following touch upon Phrenology  
is admirable.

"We have sown the seeds of bumps  
Which chibbled in the heads of Gumps,  
"Take root without the aid of thumps  
"And grow as large as camels' humps."

"Protuberant clasticities,  
"Placed in our phrenologic press  
"Isrander'd by its powers immense,  
"Emburent benivolence!"



" We take a thing we call Nousometer,  
 " Or Phenological Minometer;  
 " The grand quintessence of inventions  
 " For measuring the mind's dimensions.

" Nousometers, our hope and trust is,  
 " Will supersede our courts of justice,  
 " By proving guilt in all gradations,  
 " In style of Euclid's demonstrations.

The author proposed an exchange  
 of his work, for one of my antiquarian  
Researches, which I readily accepted.  
 See page 129 (of Sketch Books) for a notice  
 of this ingenious and valuable man.

55

Texans

From the latest accounts it appears  
 probable that the Texans will be  
 conquered or driven from their coun-  
 try by the forces under Santa Anna  
 amounting to about 5000 exper-  
 ienced troops. The opposing force under  
 Gen. Houston amounts to about 1500  
 or 2000 inexperienced men. Volunteers  
 from some of the western States are said  
 to be joining the Texans, a measure which  
 cannot



cannot be tolerated by our Government, without a gross departure from rectitude.

Whether the Mexicans can be justified in their opposition to the Mexican Government I am not certain. Most of the settlers emigrated from the States, and voluntarily placed themselves under that Government, and of course are bound to support it, so long as it shall be administered constitutionally. If the Mexicans are determined to establish a separate government in consequence of impositions on the constitution of Mexico, by the late Santa Anna, they have some plea for their resistance. But before they attempt this, we should have taught them to look to the means they propose to effect their object. The wild American notions that a few "sons of liberty", without instructed troops, or resources for war, can cope with disciplined armies led on by experienced officers, must ruin any country. The passions of the



Mexican army has been undervalued by the Mexicans. It is said by those acquainted with the Mexican troops, that they have been accustomed to warlike employments almost from their childhood. That they are accustomed to cruelties & are mountaineers, who are brought up as brigands and ~~are~~ capable of any degree of bloodship and privations that humanity can bear; and that they are as effective as any that could be brought to operate in that country. If these be facts the Mexicans must submit to conquest or abandon their country. Any civil power the government of the United States is not to be expected, unless we are determined to plunge into a war with Mexico, in which case, we might learn that she is not destitute of the means for a formidable resistance, or even an offensive war. Let us then retain our neutrality and be actuated by the principles of justice and do as we would be done by a rule from which we ought not, in any case, to depart.



Interesting Books.

- 56 Memoirs of the Duchesse D'Angoulême (Madame Junot), 1801. 800  
445 pages (Hawners Press 1832)  
This is a singular and curious <sup>work</sup> full  
of anecdote and incident. The Duchess  
was intimate with the Bonaparte  
family, and her husband a favorite  
General of the Emperor. In a very  
pleasant manner she gives sketches  
of most of the incidents of the French  
Revolution and presents Napoleon  
in a point of view rare and  
more attractive than we have generally  
viewed him. We have seen him in  
the familiar circle of Ladies and  
among his Generals, at their parties  
and social meetings. The work  
is interesting to all who are curi-  
ous about the character of the Em-  
peror of France, and the Generals  
under him. The book contains  
by Chapter, and a portrait of  
General Junot, well executed  
from the Lithographie Imp. of Es-  
clapart & Co. of New York.



54 A dwelling House Barn and Cornhouse took fire by the sparks from the engine, passing on the Boston and Worcester Rail Road, and were all consumed. The woods also took fire in one or more places, from the same cause. Engines in common use have something attached to the funnel to prevent the sparks from escaping, but was not the case on Wednesday. The wind was very high during the day.

In dry weather accidents of this kind may be frequent, unless the sparks from the engine are secured, particularly in high winds. In passing woods there is danger from the engine, and none should be used without a wire netting over the chimney, which, it is said, will prevent such accidents.

But with this precaution, when a Rail road passes through a street of wooden buildings, in dry windy weather the engines may be fired, and combustibles should <sup>not</sup> be suffered to remain near the Road, such as stacks of Hay, grain &c. Our Engineers should look to the circumstance.



Return to Deerfield

58 Monday May 2. At 6 o'clock A.M.  
 took seat in the cars and arrived at  
 Worcester about 9 o'clock. At that place  
 I expected to find a stage for Simsbury  
 or Barre to intercept the Greenfield stages;  
 but was disappointed, none were to move  
 in either of these directions until Tuesday.  
 Hiring a stage was to start for  
 Amherst took a seat and arrived  
 at Gilberts town at that place, about  
 8 o'clock P.M. Tuesday morn, hired a passage  
 to Bloody brook, and thence another to  
 my house, where I arrived about the mid-  
 dle of the forenoon. The day was warm  
 and the roads generally dry. At Ware  
 Factory we met a thunder shower  
 from the west, and considerable rain.  
 Between Belchertown and Amherst  
 we had a 2<sup>d</sup> Shower with thunder.  
 This is the first warm day I have  
 felt this spring. Vegetation is very back-  
 ward, and the western hills covered  
 with patches of snow in abundance.  
 Tuesday 3. The weather continued hot  
 through the day and rather uncomfort-  
 able. Wednesday 4. Weather again cool.

1836



Expenses on the Route.

154

The expenses on this route are greater than on the northern one. The following are the items

Carrriage to the Depot at Boston	50
Fare on rail road to Worcester	1,50
Do to Amherst	2,50
Hire of Carrriage Amherst to Bloody B	1,75
Three Horse money wagon	25
Dinner at Brookfield eat at a common table only	50
at Genl G. Allen's 1 lodge & 2 meals	75
refreshment and 2 Total \$	7,75
and Porter Boy at Worcester	18 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
	<u>\$ 7,93<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub></u>

Note. At no time when travelling in New England have I paid so high a price for a traveller's dinner at Brookfield.

In consequence of the concentration of the stages, ~~one~~<sup>the</sup> Springfield and Northampton routes, at Worcester at the head of the Rail Road, much travel passes through Brookfield, and as the business increases the expenses of travelling will increase. Our taverns then will raise on this and increase their charges until they find hard leaving them for more economical routes.



59 Books purchased at Boston for  
the Library Company in Deerfield.

1 Voyage of the Potomac round the World 1831 to 1834. by Reynolds 1 Vol	3 25
2 Maine Historical Collections 1 <sup>st</sup> Vol	1 25
3 Washington's Letters by Sparks 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	5 —
4 Sturms Reflections 1 Vol —	1 50
5 Tucker's Light of Nature 4 Vols	6
6 Irving's Grayson Miscellany 3 Vols	2 62
7 Combs on the Constitution of man. 1 Vol	83
8 Dick on mental Illumination 1 Vol.	62
9 Norman Leslie (a novel) 2 Vols	1 37
10 Sedgewick on Public & Private Economy 1 Vol.	75
11 Irving's Indian Sketches 2 Vols	1 38
12 Sparks's Biography 4 <sup>th</sup> Vol —	1 00
13 Random Recollections of House of Com <sup>rs</sup> . 1 Vol	50
14 Pomfret's (Destitutions & Excavations) 1 Vol	50
15 Harpers Family Library up to 77 No. 6 Vols.	2 70
16 Marryat's Tales of the Sea 1 Vol.	50
17 Mass. Historical Collections 7 Vols	7 00
18 Purks Memoranda or Residence in Eng. 1 Vol	1 75
19 Haliburton's Nova Scotia 2 Vols	3 50
20 Book of Shipwrecks at Sea 1 Vol	87 1/2
21 Storey's Commentaries on the Con <sup>st</sup> . 1 Vol	2 —
22 Liphams's Manual of Peace 1 Vol	1 25
Total	46 14 1/2



Books

156

Brought up	46 14 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
23 Sparks Life of Gouverneur Morris 3 Vol	3 00
24 Deedes of D <sup>r</sup> Abrenito 1 Vol	1 50
25 Jay on Slavery 1 Vol	3 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
26 Channing on Do 1 Vol	50
Total cost	<u>51.52</u>

For myself.

1 Epitome of Military Events 1 Vol	1 00
2 Armstrongs Notices of the War, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vol	80
3 American Almanack 1 Vol	75
4 Terrible Destruction (an exchange)	1
	<u>\$ 3 55</u>

The Epitome of Military Events was purchased from the Library of the late Col. Duane of Philadelphia, by the Drake of Boston, and by him sold to me.

In selecting the Books for the Library Company, much pains were taken to procure those which would be useful, as well as amusing, and possibly they may not exactly suit the taste of such as have vitiated their intellects with the light trash which is daily becoming fashionable in our Country.



60. In a letter from Genl Washington to the Baron, dated Mount Vernon 15 March 1784, he says - "I have perused with attention the plan, which you have formed, for establishing a Continental Legion and for training a certain part of the Arms-bearing men of the ~~Vernon~~, as a militia in times of peace; and with the small alterations, which have been suggested and made, I very much approve of it."

It was no unpleasant and flattering circumstance to me, to find such a coincidence of ideas as appear to run through your plan, and the one I had the honor to lay before a Committee of Congress in May last. Mine, however, was a hasty production, the consequence of a sudden call and little time for arrangement; yours of maturer thought and better digestion. At the same time that I limited the propensity of a Continental militia, I ~~glided~~ almost insensibly into what I thought would, rather than what I conceived ought to be a proper peace establishment for this Country.



A peace establishment ought always to have two objects in view; the one, the sure security of parts and of stores, and the public tranquillity; the other to be prepared, if the latter is impracticable, to resist with efficacy the sudden attempts of a foreign or domestic enemy. If we have no occasion for troops for the first purposes, and were certain of not wanting any for the second, then all expence of every nature and kind whatsoever on this score, would be equally nugatory and unjustifiable; but while men have a disposition to wrangle, and to disturb the peace of society, either from ambitious, political, or interested motives, common prudence and foresight require such an establishment, as is likely to insure the blessings of peace, although the undertaking should be attended with difficulty and expence; and I can think of no plan more likely to answer the purpose, than the one you have suggested; which, the principles being established, may be enlarged or diminished <sup>as</sup>



ished at pleasure, according to circumstances. It therefore meets my aspiration, and has my best wishes for its success." Spencer's Washington Letters Vol. 9. page 25.

The plan of the Baron was published in the papers of the day, and it evinced much knowledge of the cost of war, and of the circumstances of the Country. Besides a Continental Legion, he proposed a select militia to be so trained as to fit it for the field on any emergency. After the peace Congress thought little about a national defence, and the military art was suffered to die with the old officers.

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61. A new work by Thomas Dick LL.D. is just from the press, entitled "Mental Illumination and improvement of Mankind" 1 Vol. 12mo 425 pages with explanatory cuts.

The design of the work is to introduce an improved system of Education, and like others, by this matter, it is ingenious and highly interesting as well as instructive. It is hoped it may do much good. The







The weather

1836 62 Since our last notice of the weather,  
 the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, at Boston, it has generally  
 continued cool, with the exception of the  
 two days (May 2 & 3) when we returned  
 to Deerfield. At this time, May 13, we  
 have a cold air and vegetation is  
 backward. A few blossoms begin to  
 appear on the Plum and Pear trees;  
 but none are observed on the apple trees.  
 Probably the snow still remains on  
 Moose Mountain, for the winds from  
 the western quarter are cold. A remark-  
 able haze <sup>at times</sup> of the day has been observed  
 during the spring which prevents the  
 penetration of the sun's rays to the earth,  
 and the surface remains rather dry,  
 though the water in our wells has risen  
 to the usual height owing to the dissolving  
 of the snow, while there was little frost  
 in the ground. The 2 & 3 of May were  
 the warmest days we have felt this  
 season, and the 2<sup>d</sup> was attended with  
 thunder showers. Whether we shall  
 have a warm summer, is to be seen.  
 Our maples have generally put out their leaves.



## The Florida Wave.

162

63 The forces under Gen. Scott, we learn, are returning from the frontiers of the Peninsula to more healthy stations further north; and the campaign is laboriously pushed during the summer. The militia of course will be sent home and suffered to resume their proper avocations. The last accounts are about the middle of April.

1836

When the war commenced we were aware that little could be done towards a conquest of the Indians with such a paucity of force, and a selectable position which was made up of undisciplined troops. The only chance for success was by pushing a competent <sup>body</sup> ~~force~~ into the Indian country during the winter months. But such a force was not to be had at that time. Militia draughts were resorted to, since these troops were about as well fitted for a campaign, as they were to man a navy and act against an enemy on the ocean. Many of our finest fighting people,



Censure of the Commander

who know nothing of war, and who believe that Nature bravery is all that is wanting to fit men for the field, are disposed to blame the commanding General, for the little success obtained over the enemy, and without advert-  
ing to the true cause, say the war has been miserably conducted.

We are far from this opinion. So far as relates to Gen. Scott we think all has been done that could have been done, circumstanced as he was. The fault was in the Government, in not having a proper force in the outset. A Select militia trained a sufficient time at home, in time of peace, would have given a different aspect to the campaign, had it been vigorously pushed during the winter months.

The unauthorized expedition under Gen. Gaines, was of a singular character. This blustering commander, after having landed with a force of about 1000 at Tempe Bay, formed a junction with Gen. Clinch at the northward, and on



In return towards the Bear, not the Indians at the Withlacooche, who were & guided him, and within a short time, would have stowed him out, had he not been relieved by Clinch with provisions. This advance into the country occupied by the Indians, without a supply of provisions, evinces, in improvidence which no able commander would have suffered. Yet this ~~Gen.~~<sup>supposed</sup> Gen. claimed the honor of having conquered the enemy, and of ending the war; and in a Letter to several Gentlemen of Mobile, on his return, censured Gen. Scott for his tardy movements and want of skill in his profession. Gen. Gaines may be a brave man; but he ought to have learned before this time, that this is but one qualification of a commander. A dash into a wild <sup>possibly by Indians</sup> Country, without a supply of provisions, or any means to obtain them, is unpardonable in a commander; and because Gen. Scott was more provident in this respect, he is deemed a tardy commander.



The truth is, Scott's movements exhibit a much higher degree of military skill, than those of Gaines. We are not prepared to say that the latter is ignorant of the art of war; but we do say, that in selecting a command to conduct a large force against a disciplined enemy in an open country, we should select Scott rather than Gaines. For a woodsman, with a small force, perhaps Gaines might perform able services; but his improvidence in the expedition to the Withlacooche, evinces a rashness totally inconsistent with the strategic rules of an able commander.

Gaines is now on the frontier of Texas with a small force, to guard our territory against any encroachment of the Mexicans, or the Comanche Indians; where he may find whether his supposed skill is superior to that of Scott; or we should he still disregard the rules for conducting an army, as laid down by able and experienced commanders, he may, too late, find that untimely leaving & blind confidence.



generally end in defeat and disgrace.

The command of an undisciplined army is a dangerous undertaking, and no prudent officer will voluntarily risk his reputation on such service. But if ordered by the proper authority, he cannot humbly decline the task; yet when he enters upon the arduous duty, it will be with reluctance, knowing as he must, that however faithfully he may perform it, he can add nothing to his reputation in the eye of the unthinking public, unless he is successful in all his operations. The duty imposed upon <sup>him</sup> will be immense, extending from the command or down to the corporal, in all of its ramifications, and, if opposed by a skillful enemy, he may expect nothing but defeat. So long then as our government relies on an undisciplined militia for offense or defense, the situation of our Generals must be full of enviable. A Frederick, a Bonaparte or a Washington



1836 could never <sup>have</sup> established a military reputation under such circumstances. Be it then our endeavor to remove the false notions which now prevail in relation to our national defence; and in "peace prepare for war" - the only means of preserving the former.

44. Eclipse of the Sun, May 15<sup>th</sup>  
 1836 By the calculations in the American Almanac, the eclipse at Boston, Lat. 42.21. N. Long. 71.4.9 W of Greenwich, was to be as follows:

Beginning of <sup>h m s</sup> 7.25.32.2 morning

Greater observations 8.38.15.3

End of <sup>h m s</sup> 9.59.44.6 mean

Duration of <sup>h m s</sup> 2.34.11.4 time  
 Digest eclipsed 8. 6 1/2 on Sun's south limb.

By my clock which was nearly true to Solar time, the eclipse began at Deerfield about 20 minutes past 7 o'clock. The almanac made it <sup>h m s</sup> 7.19 at Springfield, mean time.

It is highly pleasing to see with what precision eclipses are now calculated, the result of great accuracy in the Tables of Sun and Moon's motion. Perhaps no



~~At~~ <sup>No</sup> Science has been brought to greater perfection than that of Astronomy; but we are mostly indebted to Europeans for this perfection. The United States rests under the disgrace of neglecting to establish an astronomical observatory; and we are indebted to England for our nautical Almanac, without which, no ship bound to Europe, or around Cape Horn or Good Hope, would undertake the voyage. yet we boast of being the most enlightened people on earth!! So long as we are engrossed in banks and banking, and in commercial affairs, the Higher Sciences will remain secondary objects; and we have much to learn before we can claim the epithet of an enlightened nation. With an overflowing Treasury Congress seem to have no disposition to curtail the pinopop of the great sciences, without which no nation can rise to high eminence. Let us awake from our lethargy.



169  
—  
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140

16

65

May 15<sup>th</sup>

May 10<sup>th</sup> - This day a Southern breeze  
brings a softened air, ~~unfavorable~~ <sup>favorable</sup> to vegetation,  
and nature seems to revive from its  
long sleep of frost; but the surface of  
the earth remains dry - ~~the~~ <sup>scarcely</sup> blossoms <sup>begin</sup> to appear.

1836

~~on the opposite side~~, and the season is late,  
within a few days or travelers who had  
passed over Hoosac Mountain, state that  
the snow several feet in depth.

A Gentleman of this Town just returned from a journey to Richmond in Virginia says, he saw there wheat which had headed, erice the trees were clothed with the full sized leaf. The Lat. of Richmond, according to the American Almanac, is  $39^{\circ} 32' 14''$  N. - about 5 degrees south of Deerfield. Had he proceeded to the South point of Florida he would have found vegetation much more advanced, almost at its full expansion, and some fruits nearly ripened, by this time.

What a variety of climates is found  
within the United States from  
that of the frigid to the torrid zone.  
For we have <sup>almost every</sup> ~~kind of~~ <sup>climate</sup> in N. England.



Set Shuteh & Russell & Co. have a  
works on Geometry, perspective of all  
sorts, filled with plates and cuts  
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is included. A fine work.

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following cheap against me

1 Peter Simple 3 vols —	1,75
1 Gentle to Ladies —	75
	<hr/> 2,50

which I say are included in their  
Bill of Books sent March 28. 1835  
and accepted by them. The Books were  
probably charged on Books and not  
included when put into the Bill  
Look at the Bill.



Expenses at Boston during my attendance on  
the Legislature 1836 with purchases -

Board at Leches 4 weeks	\$16,00
Passage to Boston with subistence	5 00
Contingencies (various)	1,00
Books: 1 Armstrongs notices of the war (self)	,80
(Self) 2 Military Events (2 hands) in box	1,00
3 Jay and Manning	,37
4 Channing on Do	,50
5 Family Library (N <sup>o</sup> 77) 2 vols	,90
6 Memoirs of Dukes of D'Albany	1,50
(Self) 7 American Almanac	,75
Magnum Bonum pen & quills	,94
Boston Semi-Weekly paper	4,00
Case of Instruments for D. Hoyt	3 00
Washing of cloths	
8 Fependens Tractation (an Exchange)	0,00
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